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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 214

SATURDAY - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2012

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OPINION METER This week's poll:

Would you support a recall petition against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

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President Obama vows at the Democratic Convention to fix the nation's economic woes.

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The screams of teenagers for One Direction dominate at the MTV Video Music Awards.

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he is innocent of the allegations contained in a resolution impeaching him, adding that some lawmakers authored the "frivolous" resolution only to cover up their lack of contributions to their precincts and the whole CNMI such as lowering utility rates and improving services at the hospital during their terms.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Fitial said he will be responding to the 16 articles of impeachment through a letter addressed to the Legislature on Monday.

"I didn't do anything

» Governor to respond to articles of impeachment on Monday

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Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, talks to his supporters including former Commerce secretary Mike Ada, right, after wrapping up a meeting of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon. Fitial spoke to the media for the first time yesterday about the resolution initiating impeachment proceedings against him, but a detailed response to the 16 articles of impeachment will be sent to the Legislature on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

TRO stops Fund's emergency declaration

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
REPORTER

A U.S. District Court for the NMI judge issued yesterday a temporary restraining order that prohibits Gov. Benigno R. Fitial from enforcing an executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

"It's messy, isn't it?" designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood quipped, referring to the Fund's situation at a hearing that lasted over two hours. Her comment drew laughs from

the few people who watched the proceedings.

After listening to the counsels' arguments, Tydingco-Gatewood found that two unnamed retirees that are suing the Fund have met the requirements in obtaining a TRO and ordered them to post a \$1 bond.

Tydingco-Gatewood, however, denied the unnamed retirees' request to treat the TRO hearing as a preliminary injunction hearing. Instead, the judge

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Kilili, Fitial clash over food stamp funding again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) expressed "dismay" Thursday over Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signing of an agreement in July that cuts food stamp benefits for CNMI families, but

the Fitial administration belied this claim.

Sablan said that Fitial and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao traveled in July to San Francisco, California "where they negotiated and signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that cuts benefits. [Former] attorney general Ed Buckingham also

approved the cuts."

The delegate said the maximum a family of four can get under the agreement that Fitial negotiated is just \$444 a month.

This is \$60 less than the \$504 per month that Sablan said has been in effect since he got the USDA secretary to increase the CNMI's

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Local

Foreign workers with denied CW applications urged to come together

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed urged yesterday all foreign workers whose Commonwealth-only worker petitions were denied to join them in an

open forum at 7pm tonight near the TSL Plaza in Garapan where

Blood supply assured for CHC despite unpaid bills

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center and the Guam Memorial Hospital have been assured of a continuous supply of blood, despite owing unpaid obligations to the American Red Cross.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter told *Saipan Tribune* that the organization recognizes the critical role played

by the product in saving people's lives.

Hirsh said he cannot comment about the unpaid bills, but pointed out that despite the outstanding bills there is no way Red Cross will stop providing the two hospitals with an adequate blood supply.

He confirmed that the organization supplies blood to the two hospitals every couple of weeks, depending on what the needs are. These blood prod-

ucts are shipped out refrigerated from its distribution center in Lt. Louis Missouri all the way to the islands.

Saipan Tribune learned that hospitals in the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa owe the American Red Cross about \$500,000 in unpaid bills for blood product supplies. The unpaid bills are growing by about \$50,000 each week due to continuous usage.

The Red Cross supplies ap-

proximately 40 percent of the nation's blood supply. It provides blood for patients in nearly 3,000 hospitals across the U.S.

In 2004, hospitals in the territories worked with the Office of Insular Affairs for some payment assistance, an approach that is now also being eyed for CNMI and Guam.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta, it was learned, was also notified about the situation but has yet to issue a statement.

they have been holding a 24-hour vigil.

The vigil, which will wrap up on Sept. 15, opposes the extension of the transitional CW program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, and supports the grant of improved immigration status to long-term legal foreign workers in the CNMI. Over 1,200 have so far signed a petition on these matters, Syed said.

"We are proposing a plan of action for those whose CW petitions were denied so we are inviting them on Saturday night, and we will bring this to the attention of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and other federal agencies," Syed said yesterday.

In the open forum, officers and members of the United

Workers Movement-NMI, Dekada Movement, and Human Dignity Movement will also explain their reasons for opposing the extension of the CW program and recommending instead a grant of improved immigration status to long-term legal alien workers.

In their petition addressed to DHS' Napolitano, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and other local and federal officials, the foreign workers asked for a "grant of permanent residency status and a direct pathway to citizenship."

The worker groups said the CW program "has not provided the stability and secure future that legal long-term foreign workers of the CNMI had envisioned." (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Ex-principal's request to delay trial OK'd

The federal court has granted the request of former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl and the prosecution to delay the jury trial currently set for Oct. 1, 2012.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reset the trial to Nov. 27, 2012, at 9am.

Manglona said a hearing on all motions shall be set for Oct. 25, 2012, at 1:30pm.

"The court finds that failure to grant a continuance in these circumstances would deny counsel for the defendant and the attorney for the government the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation," said the judge in her order issued yesterday.

Weindl has informed the court that he needs more time to understand the nature of the U.S. government's case against him.

Weindl, through counsel David G. Banes, and assistant U.S.

attorney Rami Badawy, agreed to continue the jury trial currently set for Oct. 1, 2012, to a date and time convenient to the court and the parties.

Banes said the parties are still conducting discovery, which is complicated as most of the discovery is allegedly illicit material and can only be viewed at the U.S. Attorney's Office, under supervisions of FBI agents and U.S. attorneys.

Banes said the defendant, who is currently incarcerated, wishes to be present and needs to have his computer expert present as well as his counsel.

The indictment charges the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography, and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography, for allegedly using a net-book to review several child pornographic materials. He pleaded not guilty. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the Thirteenth Tinian Municipal Council will be conducting a **Special Session** on the appointment of Mr. Don A. Farrell as Commissioner to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission as appointed by the Honorable Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan. **Special Session No. 13-08** will be conducted on Monday, September 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the Tinian Municipal Council Conference Room.

Order of Business

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Testimony of the Mayor
4. Testimony of the Appointee
5. Public Testimony
6. Finding and Recommendation by the EAGI Chairman
7. Miscellaneous
8. Adjournment

/s/ Estevan P. Cabrera
Chairman

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at the conference room of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Oral or written questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Commissioner Joseph C. Guerrero or Commissioner Zenie P. Mafnas at The Law Office of Robert Tenorio Torres at 670-234-7859 (phone) or 670-234-5749 (fax). Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503758 C.K., Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Saipan, M.P. 96950.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order- Quorum
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2012 and August 1, 2012
3. Adoption of the Administrative Resolutions
 - a) Resolution to Extend Service Contract – Hearing Examiner
 - b) Resolution to Extend Service Contract – Regulatory Consultant
 - c) Resolution to Extend Service Contract – Legal Counsel
4. Legal Opinion/Memo on Executive Order issued on August 16, 2012
5. Commission Comments on HB 17-214
6. Regulatory Matters: Docket 09-3, including ETC Certifications and approval of MTC cost allocation manual
7. Administrative Matters
8. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn

/s/ Joseph C. Guerrero, CPUC Chairperson

Flooded walkways greet Hopwood students as classes open

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students of Hopwood Junior High School were greeted by flooded walkways on campus during the opening of classes this week.

Hopwood Junior High principal Jonas Barcenas told

Saipan Tribune that the pathways flooding has been a perennial problem at the campus—at least since he became the school's administrator four years ago.

Barcenas said that Hopwood, built some 50 years ago, needs immediate fixing in many areas, including the building of

new walkways.

In a visit to the campus Tuesday, students were seen using benches and chairs to cross the flooded walkways as they moved from one class to another.

"This has been happening for many years and we're really concerned because whenever it

rains, our students get wet because they have to go through these flooded walkways on campus," Barcenas said.

He said that Hopwood needs six walkways to ensure the orderly movement of students. He estimated that about \$150,000 is needed to fix this issue.

He acknowledged, however,

that Hopwood has had significant campus improvements this year with assistance from the American Recovery Reinvestment Act's state fiscal stabilization fund, which awarded PSS \$34.2 million in 2009.

Barcenas said that Hopwood, using ARRA monies, was able to replace all its air-condition-

ing units totaling over 70. The federal assistance also upgraded the school's electrical system, replaced dilapidated classroom windows and doors, and repainted all school buildings.

Barcenas said the school needs more assistance for the renovation of its dilapidated buildings A, C, D, and the vocational room.

Hopwood is home to 1,177 students.

we're seniors, it was motivating to know that underclassmen look up to us as role models and as leaders," she said.

Student Council president Jimin Ryu was happy with the work they got done. "It went very well. We accomplished our planning in record time because all students worked as a team with cooperation and compromise. I'm kind of nervous, but based on what I saw, I am confident that we are moving forward with great things."

MCS holds leadership retreat for students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

While most teenagers slept in on Saturday, Mount Carmel School's student leaders got up bright and early to participate in the school's Student Leadership Retreat. Held every year, the retreat helps students grow as leaders and gives them the opportunity to work together to

plan all school activities for the school year.

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero facilitated the retreat, which was started with a prayer and a team-building energizer.

The energizer called the "Martian Probe" had students work in groups to transport styrofoam balls from one end of the room to the other by pulling at strings tied to a metal ring on which the ball

was suspended. Since groups had to criss-cross the room, students had to not only work in their respective teams, but had to work with other teams to avoid running into each other.

The activity was followed by a TED Talks video about leadership and participants talked about what it means to be a leader. The consensus reached was that leaders are

those who inspire their peers to follow a vision and fulfill a mission. All students at the retreat also committed to aligning their respective group mission statements with the school's mission "to educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

After the discussion, student leaders got down to work, planning out the entire school year. Going through week by week, Deleon Guerrero and Student Council officers invited clubs,

classes, and organizations to come forward with their activity proposals. By the end of the retreat, student leaders had successfully planned out the entire year, right up to graduation in June.

For senior class president Anastasia Schweiger, the retreat gave her a new perspective about her role as a student leader.

"I thought it was really inspiring not only to hear from our teachers, but also to hear from other students, about what it means to be a leader. Especially now that

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KILILI**From Page 1**

food stamp grant in early 2009.

"We don't yet know the amount the governor and the secretary negotiated for next year's grant. We don't even know if they asked for more, so benefits could go up. Agriculture officials do have the power to increase the NMI food stamp grant, as they did at my request last year. But since then, Governor Fitial and Secretary Faisao had to give back \$4.5 million of food stamp money that they failed to use since 2006. And it is very hard to ask for more money when you are returning money unused," Sablan said in a statement issued by his campaign.

He said that people in Guam get twice as much help from the federal government to buy food. Yet, he said, people know that the costs of food, along with gas, electricity and other basic necessities, are higher in the CNMI.

Sablan said Fitial has to "end this second-class status."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said "obviously, the campaign season is once again forcing Delegate Sablan's campaign to distort the facts in an effort to make people believe that he's making things happen."

"The truth is in the records and the

FITAL**From Page 1**

president of the local GOP.

Yesterday was Fitial's first time to talk to the media about the impeachment resolution.

"All those allegations and concerns are all frivolous," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he cannot specifically comment on each of the allegations until he sends that letter to the Legislature.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also earlier described the allegations as "frivolous" and "do not rise to the level of impeachment."

House Resolution 17-111, now under review by an eight-member special committee, lists 16 articles of impeachment against Fitial for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

Oscar Rasa, one of the special advisers of the Republican Party, said the party membership also urged the governor to officially respond to the impeachment allegations.

Rasa said party members are confident that the governor will weather the allegations filed against him.

'Shocked'

The governor said he was "shocked" that the House minority bloc chose to pre-file an impeachment resolution while he was off-island. He said he has been open to meeting with lawmakers if they have concerns.

"So what's the rush? They think that if they remove me, that all the problems of the Commonwealth will be gone?" Fitial asked.

Despite the introduction of the impeachment resolution, Fitial said he still respects the House minority bloc and will continue to work with them and the rest of the Legislature in addressing issues affecting the CNMI.

'Process has begun'

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), lead author of the impeachment resolution and chairman of the Special Committee on Impeach-

records reflect that in 2009, the DCCA NAP [Nutrition Assistance Program] funding level was awarded a capped amount of \$11.525 million. DCCA NAP then received an additional funding amount of \$622,000 under a block grant, not a congressional action by Delegate Kilili, increasing the funding to \$12.148 million," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said last year, NAP received a one-time additional funding of \$1 million, for a funding level of \$13.148 million through a block grant, "not because Delegate Kilili told USDA Secretary Vilsack to do it."

Demapan said in July this year's consultation meeting with USDA, the issue on the additional \$1 million was discussed "and USDA made it clear that the grant it provided is only a one-time funding opportunity."

"So if Delegate Kilili really had a hand in it, he should have gotten Secretary Vilsack to do more than a one-time deal. Because of the one-time restriction, Gov. Fitial and Secretary Faisao pushed to ensure that the CNMI would then get the funding level given in [fiscal year] 2009, which was capped at \$12.148 million, in order to ensure that the benefits will continue to be available to recipients," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that a legal clause on "carry-over" was success-

ment, separately said yesterday that "the process has started."

"He can prove his innocence if it gets to the Senate," Deleon Guerrero said.

Deleon Guerrero also said that Fitial's statement to the media is "expected."

Besides Deleon Guerrero, the six other co-sponsors of the impeachment resolution are Reps. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

At least 14 "yes" votes are needed in the 20-member House to impeach the governor, and at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate to convict him.

So far, only eight House members have gone on the record to say they will vote "yes" to the resolution, seven of them co-authors.

Fitial repeatedly said the impeachment is mere "politics" and was introduced "to win votes."

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who was also at the Republican Party meeting yesterday, gave the Special Committee on Impeachment 30 days to report on the impeachment resolution.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), one of the eight members of the committee, said yesterday that he accepts the appointment, adding that "since this issue has reached this level, those of us in the committee must make a thorough and complete assessment for the sake of the people and for the sake of the governor."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) wrote to the speaker yesterday formally accepting his nomination to the special committee. Other committee members also accepted the speaker's appointment.

'Not a secret'

As to the issue of the 25-year power purchase agreement with a guaranteed price of \$190.8 million, Fitial said its signing was "not kept secret."

fully negotiated by the governor and incorporated into the fiscal year 2012 memorandum of understanding.

"The carry-over clause as agreed upon allows for any lapsed funds in [fiscal year] 2012 to be carried over into the succeeding fiscal year so that it can be earmarked for benefits and any other NAP expenses. This clause has a grant life cycle of two years to be expended in accordance with the identified earmarking purpose. This special clause was incorporated to ensure that lapsed funds that are earmarked will not be de-obligated by the grantor," he added.

Sablan said he has continued to work to increase food stamp benefits for needy families in the CNMI.

"After spending the last month going door to door on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, I know more than ever that our people need the same food stamp benefits as other Americans," he said.

Within months of being elected to Congress, Sablan said he was able to get the CNMI food stamp grant increased by \$1.45 million to \$12.148 million each year. He also got the Agriculture secretary to add another \$1 million last year, bringing the CNMI's total grant to \$13.148 million.

"As a result, food stamp benefits went up and families had more food. Having enough to eat is especially important for children. Studies show

He said just because lawmakers and other people were not present during the signing of the PPA doesn't necessarily mean it was a secret.

The power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC, he said, will result in much lower utility cost for customers.

Since he came into office, Fitial said he has been working to reduce the cost and address many of the problems associated with utility services but he said the Legislature has been making it hard to move beneficial projects forward.

Fitial said the PPA is part of a much bigger project that is the shipyard repair facility, which will need a stable power supply to sustain its operations. That is why its investors are embarking on a power plant project first.

Besides the much lower utility cost per kilowatt hour for every household, this shipyard-power plant investment will create new jobs for 1,000 people in the CNMI in the initial stages. The number will increase to some 2,500 new jobs in the CNMI.

This no-bid diesel power plant project contract is among the issues contained in the impeachment resolution against Fitial.

The articles of impeachment also include those in connection with the release of a federal inmate to massage the governor in January 2010, a sole-source ARRA management contract, non-appointment of a Supreme Court justice, non-remittance of full employer contribution to the now cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund, and the governor's lack of action against his former attorney general, Edward Buckingham.

With the introduction of House Resolution 17-111, the CNMI adds to its list of dubious distinctions as the first U.S. territory to formally introduce a resolution to impeach its governor.

This is also the first time in CNMI history that an impeachment resolution was introduced, although it's the second time attempt to remove the governor.

that better nourished kids do better in school. Lack of food during their growing years can leave children less productive and ultimately dependent on society. Adults, too, need adequate food to do a full day's work. And without enough to eat our elderly are condemned to shorter and less healthy lives," he said.

'There's still hope'

Sablan, however, said there is still hope for the 10,000 people in the CNMI forced to take food stamps because of

these tough economic times.

He said the \$33 million needed to bring the CNMI into the national food stamp program is included in H.R. 6083, the reauthorization of farm and food laws that Congress will have to act on this year. "Party politics may delay action on this bill until after the November elections," he said.

The Fitial administration is opposed to having the CNMI included in the national food stamp program, citing the requirement for the CNMI to shoulder half of the administrative costs.

Marianas Agupa features anti-drug coalition

Today, Sept. 8, 2012, Marianas Agupa will feature Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition board member Cris Sablan and his team to talk about substance abuse issues affecting the people of the CNMI today. The show starts at 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa's Facebook account via instant messaging).

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

TRO**From Page 1**

set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 2, 2012.

A preliminary injunction is a court order issued in the early stages of a lawsuit that prohibits a party or parties from performing an act in order to preserve the status quo until a pending ruling or outcome is issued.

Tydingco-Gatewood also considered appointing temporary *ad litem* trustees for the Fund board in order for the board to have a quorum, enable it to reply to the lawsuit, and deal with the day-to-day operations of the Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the two unnamed retirees and the CNMI government to each submit by Sunday at least two to three names as temporary *ad litem* trustees.

The judge also granted the unnamed retirees' emergency motions to lift the stay in their lawsuit that has been in effect since Jan. 25, 2010, and to file a second amended complaint.

Margery S. Bronster, one of the counsels for the two unnamed retirees, appeared at the hearing via telephone from Honolulu. NMI board counsel Braddock Huesman appeared via video teleconference from Washington D.C.

At the U.S. District Court for the NMI were Tydingco-Gatewood, Fund counsel Carolyn Kern, the unnamed retirees' local counsel Stephen Woodruff, and assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel, representing Fitial and his co-defendants.

Bronster mentioned to the court that they suggested the court's appointment of *ad litem* trustees for the Fund board, citing precedent. She said the court can make such appointment considering that the Fund lacks quorum and cannot reply to the lawsuit.

She said that failure to proceed with the lawsuit due to the lack of quorum would end up rewarding Fitial and his co-defendants with their improper actions.

As to who will shoulder the expenses for the *ad litem* trustees, Bronster said it will be the Fund's responsibility.

She said the situation now is that the Fund will be eliminated and that they believe it should not be eliminated merely because of the lack of quorum.

The judge agreed with Bronster that she needs to interview the nominated trustees.

Fund counsel Kern said the appoint-

ed trustees should have the power to appoint a Fund administrator, considering that the pension agency will have no administrator by next week.

If *ad litem* trustees will be appointed, Patel said their scope of power should be limited or they might overstep boundaries.

At this point, Judge Tydingco-Gatewood asked why Fitial not just appoint trustees. She also asked if the failure to appoint is because no one is qualified.

Patel said her understanding is that there are issues of level of experience to appointed trustees and confirmation by the Senate.

At present, the Fund board has two trustees—Nacrina Barcenas and Adeline C. Roberto. The board needs four trustees to have a quorum.

After agreeing about the need to appoint *ad litem* trustees, Tydingco-Gatewood then asked the parties to discuss the motion to lift the stay order.

Bronster said they will not repeat their arguments in the pleadings submitted in court but she emphasized that if the Commonwealth court is prohibited from enforcing the court's judgment against the CNMI government, they believe that the federal court should allow them to proceed with the litigation of their lawsuit.

She described Fitial's executive order as "game changer."

Patel said the administration is trying to remedy the problem, citing the bond initiative, among other things.

Patel reiterated the administration's position that the executive order specifically states that its purpose is to prolong the longevity of the Fund's benefits.

But Bronster said the executive order is intended to frustrate the Fund's ability to pay the retirees.

Tydingco-Gatewood agreed that the unnamed retirees will suffer irreparable harm and other factors if a TRO is not granted.

Bronster said the court should treat the TRO hearing as preliminary injunction since the issues have been sufficiently argued.

But Patel requested for a preliminary injunction hearing.

Tydingco-Gatewood then set a hearing date for preliminary injunction. She however, told the parties not to submit similar arguments because she has already read all their pleadings.

The judge said she will issue a written decision.

Joint budget panel formed as countdown to shutdown begins

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) on Thursday appointed six members of a bicameral committee to break the fiscal year 2013 budget bill deadlock between the House and Senate, with

only three weeks left before the Sept. 30 deadline to pass a budget.

They also appointed two alternate members from the House and Senate.

If no budget is passed and signed into law by Sept. 30, the



Cabrera

government will be forced to shut down again starting on Oct. 1 up to the time a budget is in place.

Cabrera appointed himself as a member of the committee, along with

vice speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), the chair of the House conferees. The alternative member from the House is Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Basa is the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and author of the 2013 budget measure, House Bill 17-313 that both the House and Senate amended. Cabrera was the budget officer when now Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) was governor.

Manglona, meanwhile, appointed the following Senate conferees: Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Ralph Tor-

res (R-Saipan). The alternate member is Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

In a phone interview, Manglona said he doesn't see contentious issues that will block the Legislature from passing a budget on time.

Manglona and Taimanao, chair of the Senate conferees, separately said they will work collaboratively with their House counterparts to ensure critical agencies are properly funded, that they will be able to timely pass a budget acceptable to both houses, and avoid a government shutdown.

Cabrera, for his part, said he sees the \$300,000 appropriation each for Rota and Saipan to pay retroactive

salary of government employees as among the contentious issues.

The House speaker said the retroactive salaries for Saipan employees have already been paid, so he questions this \$300,000 that the Senate added to the budget.

The Senate, for its part, gave PSS what it asked for—\$33 million—more than the \$28 million that the House gave. But education officials fear that once the bill goes into a conference committee, PSS will end up not getting \$33 million that they say will eliminate double sessions and allow them to hire teachers, among other things.

Marines to conduct training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Marines will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 10-14, 2012, from noon to 10pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates

indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that

supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)


NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. **Call Meeting to Order (9:30a.m – 10:00a.m)**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - c. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. June 14, 2012 – Regular Meeting
 - 2. August 16, 2012 – Regular Meeting
- II. **Public Comment Period:** Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes. (10:00a.m – 10:20a.m)
- III. **Board Chair's Remarks (10:20a.m. – 10:30a.m)**
- IV. **WASC Accreditation Update (10:30a.m – 11:00a.m.)**
- V. **Old Business**
 - a. Foundation Matters
 - b. Board Policy for Consideration – First Reading (11:30a.m – 12:00p.m.)
 - 1. Repeal of old Board Policies - Academic Programs and Services (Action Item)
 - 2. Repeal of old Board Policies - Student Services (Action Item)
- Lunch Break 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.
- c. **Board Policy for Consideration – Second Reading (1:00p.m. – 2:00p.m.)**
 - 1. Board Policy No. 303.3 – Institutional Instructional Program Evaluation (Action Item)
 - 2. Board Policy No. 401 – Residency Classification (Action Item)
 - 3. Board Policy No. 402 – Student Health Insurance (Action Item)
 - 4. Board Policy No. 206.3 – Budget, Audit and Finance Committee (Action Item)
 - 5. Board Policy No. 203.1 – President's Authority and Responsibilities (Action Item)
 - 6. Board Policy No. 206 – Policy Introduction, Amendment, Passage & Suspension (Action Item)
 - 7. Board Policy No. 206.3 – Budget, Audit and Finance Committee (Action Item)
 - 8. Board Policy No. 103 – Distribution of Manual (Action Item)
- VI. **New Business (2:00p.m – 3:00p.m)**
 - a. ASNMC Constitution
- VII. **Legislative Update (3:00p.m – 3:30p.m)**
- VIII. **Reports (3:30p.m – 4:30p.m.)**
 - a. President's Report
 - 1. Dean of Administration Report
 - b. Associated Students of NMC
 - c. Staff Senate
 - d. Faculty Senate
 - e. Program Highlights – Counseling / CACG Programs
 - f. Peer Analysis
 - g. BOR Standing Committees
 - 1. Budget and Finance Committee
 - 2. Program Committee
 - 3. AdHOC Committees
- IX. **Board Self-Evaluation (4:30p.m – 5:00p.m)**
- X. **Executive Session (5:00p.m – 5:30p.m)**
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- XI. **Upcoming Board Activities (5:30p.m)**
 - 1. Schedule Next Regular Meeting
 - 2. PSS/BOR Joint Meeting - September 13, 2012 at 9am/ Multi-Purpose Center
 - 3. BOR Retreat - September 28, 2012
 - 4. National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)
 - Mr. Dennis Jones, Strategic Planning: September 30 to October 4, 2012
 - 5. ACCJC Visit: October 22-25, 2012
- XII. **Adjournment**

/s/ Juan T. Lizama
BOR Chairperson

Date: September 06, 2012



40
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Years




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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 213

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The case for organic food

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

So a new study from Stanford University shows that organic produce probably isn't any more nutritious than the conventional variety. We doubt the folks at Whole Foods are trembling in their Birkenstocks. We're not aware of too many people who thought otherwise—it doesn't make a lot of sense to assume the application of pesticides would have much impact on a fruit's vitamin content. But that doesn't mean it isn't safer to eat.

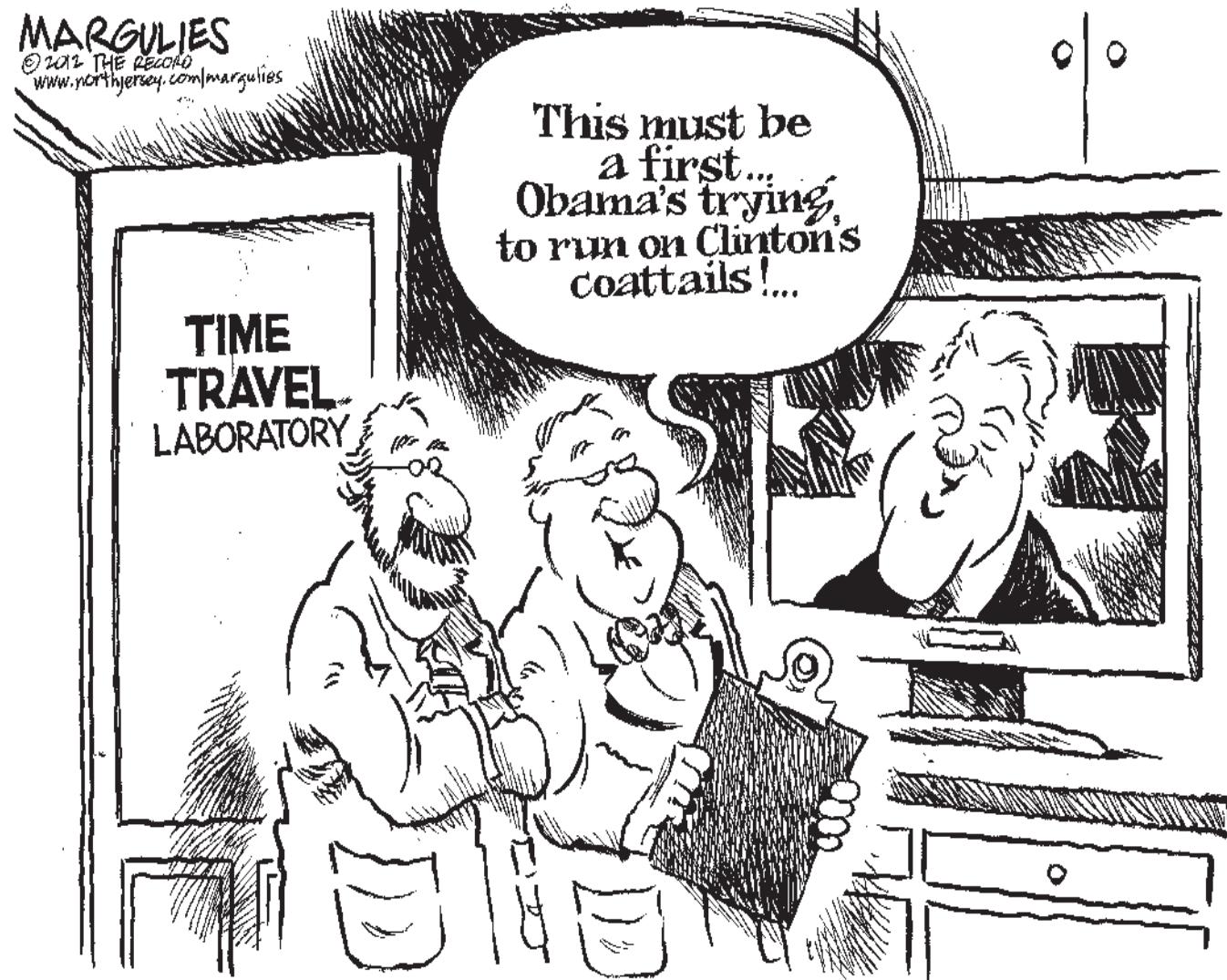
Perhaps the most valuable thing about the study of available research undertaken by Stanford's Center for Health Policy is that it points up how little is yet known about the benefits of organics and the harms done by widespread pesticide use. The review, which looked at 240 studies from around the world on the health effects of eating organic and the comparative levels of nutrients and contaminants, made headlines because it supposedly struck a blow against the perception that cheaper, conventionally grown produce—which usually involves both pesticides and chemical fertilizers—is bad for you. "There isn't much difference between organic and conventional foods, if you're an adult and making a decision based solely on your health," concluded senior study author Dena Bravata.

Not only is that debatable, but it fails to get to the heart of the reason most people spend extra for organics. The Stanford researchers found studies showing that 38 percent of conventional produce contains pesticide residue (compared with 7 percent of organic produce), yet shrugged this off because the chemical traces were usually below the levels considered safe for human consumption by the Environmental Protection Agency. But debate rages about whether EPA limits are really safe; in 2010, President Obama's Cancer Panel recommended that consumers eat organic produce, concluding that federal protections are weak and research on the subject is inadequate.

Meanwhile, some people buy organic for reasons that have little to do with health. Broad-scale use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers is environmentally ruinous, polluting waterways and producing a massive "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Organic farming removes more carbon from the air, protects wildlife and promotes soil fertility, making it more sustainable. And organic meat and dairy don't contain the antibiotics and hormones of conventional products, which means they don't promote the development of drug-resistant bacteria or such possible hormone-related side effects as early puberty in girls.

What's most glaring about the Stanford review is what's missing from it, which is any examination of processed foods. You can't get a realistic picture of health effects by looking at fruits, veggies and meats but none of the processed items that make up the bulk of the American diet. Is a kid's peanut butter and jelly sandwich more healthful if it's made from organic ingredients? A lack of comprehensive research on the totality of what we eat means we simply don't know.

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Mutual mistrust in the Pacific

Recent disputes among some of the United States' closest Asian allies over largely uninhabited islands in the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the South China Sea underscore the challenges facing Washington in moving beyond the classic hub-and-spoke structure of its security system in the Western Pacific and in crafting a more collective approach. For some time—and as most recently reiterated in the 2010 National Security Strategy, the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review report and the 2011 National Military Strategy—the United States has sought to "multilateralize" its security relationships in the Pacific, similar to what exists in its ties to Europe.

American and Western European leaders have crafted a security architecture that relies on collective action. Decades before the phrase "pooling and sharing" came into vogue, the allies of the North Atlantic region pooled their security in the 1949 treaty that created NATO and shared, if somewhat unequally, the burdens and risks of defending against common security threats.

However, Washington has long proved unable to coerce or cajole its Pacific allies into a similar round-table or multilateral approach. Therefore, the United States adopted a hub-and-spoke system, with Washington at the center, connected by bilateral "spokes" to its key allies in the Pacific theater, such as Japan, Thailand, South Korea, the Philippines and Australia.

Unfortunately, efforts to move beyond this type of security structure in the Asia-Pacific region appear destined to fail, at least in the short run. Whether it's Taiwan versus the Philippines (and China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei) in the South China Sea, Japan versus Taiwan (and China) in the East China Sea or South Korea versus Japan in the Sea of Japan, many of Washington's key allies here have little interest in cooperating more closely on security issues.

If there is one thing America's Pacific allies do share, though, it's a collective anxiety over China's rise, and specifically over Beijing's increasingly overt ability and willingness to translate its economic power into political muscle. These factors have yet to compel in a resounding manner the kind of cooperation that spurred France and Germany to overcome decades, if not centuries, of mutual mistrust and resentment in the aftermath of World War II.

The prospect of key Pacific allies quarreling among themselves instead of collectively focusing on their common security challenges places the United States in a no-win situation. Washington may be able, through a kind of neutrality, to avoid getting dragged into such disputes, but this won't necessarily prevent

By JOHN R. DENI
Los Angeles Times

John R. Deni, a former adviser to the U.S. Army in Europe, is a research professor of joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational security studies at the Strategic Studies Institute. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



those allies from clashing with each other. If the United States is drawn in on one side or the other, it risks seeing one of its allies—namely, the loser—unnecessarily weakened politically, militarily and/or economically, an unhelpful outcome in this era of American defense austerity at home and China's rising influence in Asia.

Indeed, the way ahead for the United States—and the best path by which to avoid the aforementioned risks—is unclear, in part because of the differing nature of the conflicts outlined above.

In those cases in which disputes have more to do with national pride and the weight of history, the United States has proved it has limited ability to prevent regional leaders from exploiting such disputes to stir nationalist sentiment for political advantage, at least as evidenced in the Western Balkans during the 1990s. During that decade, several political leaders in Serbia, Croatia and elsewhere who otherwise had limited domestic support exploited historical disputes that had largely faded from contemporary memory to gain or retain power. This ultimately and tragically resulted in multiple armed conflicts and tens of thousands of deaths.

Where Washington might find greater success in staving off such disasters is in exercising adroit diplomacy, and in playing the role of trusted arbiter in those conflicts among its Asia-Pacific allies that include economic or resource issues. Although such disputes might seem more intractable, since there appears to be more at stake, each of the disputants actually has a greater incentive to engage in give-and-take negotiation over potential economic benefits. Otherwise, the alternative to a negotiated settlement is to fight and potentially lose out on any potential gains—hence, better to get something rather than nothing.

Regardless of whether Washington can succeed in making this case with and defusing conflicts among its closest Pacific allies, the hub-and-spoke security system appears destined to stick around for the foreseeable future. Greater collaboration among America's allies in the Asia-Pacific theater is unlikely any time soon.

Big gov't-small gov't debate distorts history

Every four years Americans are presented with different visions of the future and are asked to choose between them. This year, we've been told, the choice is between two conceptions of government: small versus big. The Republican presidential ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan has promised to "restore" America to its "small government" past.

Any vision of the future is built upon a certain understanding of the past. Although past and future are inextricably linked, we spend much less time evaluating candidates as historians than we do assessing their skills as fortunetellers able to predict the future.

As historians, Romney, Ryan and the rest of the GOP insist that the federal government is the mortal enemy of the private sector, and that government only functions to impinge on the freedoms of the people. "Individual initiative made the desert bloom," said Barry Goldwater, godfather of the New Right of the 1960s.

It may be a rousing narrative of the past, but it isn't really true. From the very beginning of this nation, the federal government has worked in partnership with business and with other sectors of society to make this a better, more prosperous country.

Take, for starters, the communication and transportation networks without which our economic growth would not have happened. The federal government saw the need for those innovations as early as 1792 when Congress passed the Postal Act, which enabled postal routes to expand into the hinterlands, allowed newspapers to travel through the mail and established privacy in the mail as a civic ideal. In other words, it made the First Amendment work and created a mechanism for information to flow across the nation.

Grading Obama on fulfilled promises and strategic errors

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Three years of slow recovery from an inherited recession have left Barack Obama struggling to win the second term that eluded just one of his four most recent predecessors.

It's the main reason, despite his political skills and the demographic changes that favor the Democratic Party, he's not in a stronger position.

Democrats have finally developed a positive response to Ronald Reagan's iconic question by arguing the country is doing better than four years ago because jobs are being created, not lost. And on Thursday night, Obama will likely give a compelling acceptance speech because that's something he does best.

Still, he won't easily overcome the fact that his presidency has often failed to go beyond devising policy prescriptions to undertake consistent, coordinated and easily understandable efforts to sell them.

That's why many Democrats meeting here this week remain wary about his prospects. While they believe he deserves credit for carrying out his principal 2008 promises, they recognize his strategic and tactical mistakes have helped undercut his hopes of a historic presidency.

The list is extensive:

He promised bipartisanship, but failed at the outset to reach out and establish working relations with Republican congressional leaders. They would still have opposed his agenda, but he'd be on stronger ground politically and better able to negotiate compromises.

He let Democratic House members write his economic stimulus bill, making it more of a pork barrel measure than necessary. By including tax cuts up front, rather than using them to bargain

In 1862, Congress chartered the Union Pacific Railroad to connect both coasts, making the transport of people and goods across the continent faster and more efficient. Across the rest of the 19th century, the federal government promoted railroad construction by giving away land in the West to railroad corporations, which financed their tracks by selling off some of the land. Without those federally subsidized railroads, the West would never have developed economically as it did.

Also in 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Land Grant Act, certainly among the greatest federal-state collaborations in our history. By providing the states with land that in turn could be used as a revenue source, the federal government enabled states to establish the great public universities.

In turn, those universities have provided democratic access to education that would have been impossible otherwise, especially after the GI Bill made federal money available for even more young people to attend. For 150 years, the graduates of those government-subsidized universities—from farmers and engineers to doctors and lawyers and more—have contributed immeasurably to our society.

And so it has gone across a wide spectrum of American life. Homeownership is a centerpiece of the "American dream" only because the federal government has facilitated homeownership for millions since the 1930s through various programs. If you aren't worried about getting malaria when you visit the American South, that's because federal public health initiatives effectively eradicated the disease from that region in the first half of the 20th century. It would be hard to imagine the "Sun Belt" boom if people there were

for Republican support, he made the bill weaker than it could have been without attracting GOP votes. His advisers undercut the effort politically by promising it would keep unemployment under 8 percent, making it seem a failure though the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said it saved more than 3 million jobs and prevented a double digit jobless rate.

He overloaded the congressional agenda by pushing controversial "cap and trade" climate change legislation, forcing House Democrats to cast a politically risky vote for a measure destined for failure in the Senate.

On his signature health bill, Obama should have taken a stronger lead by presenting Congress with more than principles. By negotiating too long for a bipartisan Senate bill, the White House let Republicans play a delaying game while critics bashed the complex initiative.

Obama should have taken the political high ground by endorsing his bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission's deficit control plan, rather than just expressing general support for its principles.

His failure to anticipate the House GOP's determination to force deep spending cuts as a price for extending the debt ceiling cost considerable political damage before a final agreement was reached.

The administration mishandled the decision including Catholic institutions in the requirement insurance companies offer birth-control coverage, angering moderate Catholic leaders who helped pass its health plan.

Other Obama actions improved his chances. Targeting key terrorist leaders paid big dividends when he directed the Navy SEAL operation that killed Osama bin Laden. He followed through on his

Get ready for the future with 3-D printing

In 1820, Col. Robert Johnson stood on the courthouse steps in Salem, N.J., and astonished an anxious crowd by...eating a tomato.

In those days the "love apple," as it was called, was believed to be poisonous. It was mostly grown as an ornamental plant. Johnson suffered no ill effects, and before long everyone was eating tomatoes.

It's hard to spot a trend before it happens, and trends in technology are harder to decipher and predict than eating habits. But on our horizon is one powerful new technology, still in its birth pangs, that will revolutionize large parts of our production economy. It's called 3-D printing. It's just starting to be talked about more in the media now; I learned about it from a friend who is advising one of the young companies in the field. Enthusiasts say this is coming at us like a freight train—but, in its early days, it looks very hard to me to tell how fast this train is moving.

Just as a normal printer or copier reproduces and prints a two-dimensional copy of a piece of paper placed in it or sent to it, a 3-D printer will reproduce a three-dimensional copy of an object that is placed in it or sent to it.

The thought alone startles, doesn't it? Say I'm in California and you're in New York. And I send you a valve to replace the one in your car that broke; or a pair of corrective eyeglasses customized to your specifications, when all you've given me is the prescription;

or—yes, this is being explored—they transmit a body organ to replace one of yours that is defective. Actually, in that last case they'll probably send it to the hospital where you're being treated (I have to assume it'll be a good long while before we're ready for install-it-yourself body organ replacements).

We are in the early days of 3-D printing, which is also known as "additive manufacturing." These machines are still expensive; some cost as much as \$10,000, although much cheaper models are starting to appear. They reproduce things inconsistently. And most of them build only plastic objects—although labs and universities are beginning to stretch the envelope in this respect. A team at the University of Glasgow developed a 3-D printer that could produce chemical compounds, including some new ones never created before.

Think of where this may ultimately lead. What happens to the factory or the assembly line? What happens to the comparative advantage of China and other emerging countries where cheap labor and manufacturing underpin their entire economies? What happens to manufacturing jobs period, in any country, if all a computer operator has to do is input the specs of the desired item to a 3-D replicator?

Like the personal computer, which three decades ago was an experimental specialty object for advanced individual users, the 3-D printer, when it comes of age, is likely to disrupt our existing industrial economy along many dimensions. It will decimate large

By STEVEN CONN
Los Angeles Times



Steven Conn, a professor of history and director of the public history initiative at Ohio State University, is the author of the forthcoming book To Promote the General Welfare: The Case for Big Government.

still swatting malarial mosquitoes.

As for Goldwater's desert, he forgot to mention that without the Newlands Restoration Act of 1902, which provided money for massive irrigation projects across the West, little would have bloomed there.

This is the history that the current GOP has ignored, denied or perhaps never learned in the first place. But their historical misunderstanding runs even deeper. The point is not that the "government" undertook these initiatives. We did.

We are, as the first Republican president put it in 1863, a "government of the people, by the people, for the people." The policies and programs pursued by the federal government are nothing more than the actions taken by our elected representatives to carry out our common objectives and express our shared ideals. Ever since the Postal Act of 1792.

To honor and "restore" our American tradition means recognizing that the federal government has always complemented the private sector to move this country forward.

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News



Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

promise to complete the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, without serious consequences; launched the withdrawal from Afghanistan, which the public favors; and avoided further U.S. troop commitments amid the Arab world's turmoil.

Since last September, he has sharpened his differences with the GOP on economic issues, presenting sensible proposals congressional Republicans ignored and arguing Romney offers the economic approach that caused prior problems.

That helped his job approval rise into the upper 40s, but his initial mistakes and the lagging recovery forced his campaign to go negative. As Ann Romney correctly said in Tampa, "If the last four years had been more successful, do we really think there would be this attack on Mitt Romney's success?"

Still, Obama's campaign has kept the GOP off balance, enjoying success in portraying Romney as out of touch with voters.

Thursday night's speech should remind his supporters of the positive, upbeat Obama they elected, but his aggressive campaign may be the main reason he might surmount the high unemployment figure and his own mistakes to win a second term.

By PETER GOLDMARK
Newsday



Peter Goldmark, a former budget director of New York State and former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for Newsday.

parts of the transportation industry. It will radically change retailing. It is more efficient than traditional manufacturing, which commonly functions through the removal of material—by drilling, cutting, or otherwise carving it away; 3-D printing lays down successive layers of only what is needed to build up the object and is thus inherently less wasteful. In a resource-starved planet, this will make a large difference.

3-D printing will spell the end of inventory as we know it. And at the most basic level, it will change the meaning and operation of that most fundamental law of business: economies of scale.

It'll be a while before you or I buy one of these. And, frankly, I don't know if "around the corner" means in three years or 10. But it's not too early for department stores, or the Teamsters, to start worrying.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 78	
Palau	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88	▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 74
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87	▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 55
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 89	▼ 81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 68
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67	▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91	▼ 76
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 83	▼ 63
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 88	▼ 75
Paris	Sunny	▲ 82	▼ 50
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 79	▼ 72
Rome	Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 66
Salem	Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 51
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62	▼ 53
Seoul	Showers	▲ 74	▼ 67
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 88	▼ 63

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM	Today	11:43 PM	12:08 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM	Sunday		12:57 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM	Monday	12:33 AM	1:45 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM	Tuesday	1:24 AM	2:32 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM	Wednesday	2:16 AM	3:17 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

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Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

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Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062 2:40am 3:10am 1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily
UA5074 11:30am 12:20pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily
UA5078 6:50pm 7:40pm Daily
UA5072 9:55pm 10:45pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily
DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7
DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120 2:20am 8:50pm 1 via ICN
0Z606/120 2:50am 8:50pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606 2:20am 6:00am 1
0Z606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN
0Z606/701 2:50am 11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:05am 10:00pm Daily via NRT
UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM
UA5076/193 3:10pm 10:25pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703 3:30pm 10:40pm Daily via ICN
UA192/5071 9:45pm 8:00am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071 11:25pm 8:00am+1 2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm+1 Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721 2:20am 11:50pm 1 via ICN
0Z606/721 2:50am 11:50pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723 3:30pm 10:40pm Daily via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115		13:00	13:10
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117		14:30	14:40
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119		16:00	16:10
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121		16:40	16:50
Guam-Rota				FRE 123		17:40	17:50
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125		18:30	18:40
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102		7:05	7:15
	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104		7:50	8:00
Rota-Guam				FRE 106		8:20	8:30
FRE 400	18:55	19:					

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday

PROTESTANT

Amen Church

and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday-Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30am-12pm

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9:11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon

Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm

Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm

Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene

Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10-30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10-30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.

Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Sunday School: 9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)

Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9:11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Sunday evening 7:00pm

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9:10am
Lesson Study: 10:10-40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 8, 2000

Pregnancy bill faces overhaul

Changes will be made to legislation freeing employers from paying full medical costs of their pregnant nonresident workers, according to its author Rep. Dino M. Jones who claimed it has drawn wide support in the community. He said the amendments would tie the proposal to child support laws placing the burden to the father as well as to labor regulations permitting transfer of employees to another employer. The House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations is expected to conduct public hearings on the three islands to gather inputs from members of the community as well as government agencies, the representative said.

OVR promotes empowerment of youths with disabilities

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has introduced the inclusion of educational youth programs into its Fiscal Year 2001 state plan in efforts to empower youths with disabilities. According to OVR Director Tee Abraham, the agency has opted to add in new initiatives specifically designed for the youth in order to prepare them for future employment. The agency has proposed for a stay-in-school program tailored for junior high school students. Under this program, OVR will be working closely with high school students enrolled under Special Education.

Sept. 8, 2002

DOLI bars businessman from hiring nonresidents

The Department of Labor and Immigration permanently barred a Japanese businessman from hiring nonresident workers in the Commonwealth, following his failure to comply with the terms of an award order in favor of three workers. Labor hearing officer Vicente C. Seman also ordered that Hideki Furuta be barred from holding "a Commonwealth Immigration 706 classification of entry permit," pursuant to existing immigration rules. This impacts on Furuta's business plans in the Northern Marianas. Seman also cautioned the departments of commerce and of finance of possible business application by the Japanese, advising the departments to consult with the DOLI on this.

For CPA, there's a way, if there's a strong will

The Commonwealth Ports Authority would actively market idle properties adjacent to the Saipan International Airport and the island's pier as part of the agency's intensified efforts to generate additional revenue. Carlos H. Salas, CPA executive director, said the agency would continue leasing out idle lands controlled by the ports authority in order to raise funds without straining airport and seaport fees amid the continued slowdown in aviation and shipping activities. "We will continue to lease out idle lands to companies that are interested to do business either at the airport or at the seaport. We are carefully looking at other ways to generate revenue," Salas pointed out.

Sept. 8, 2003

'Asylum issue part of local control over immigration'

If the Commonwealth wants to retain local control over immigration, then it must be ready to assume all issues that fall within the arena of immigration, including asylum, according to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider. At the same time, Hofschneider said Friday that the Commonwealth's political relationship with the United States through the Covenant requires it to live up to the treaties and international laws that the U.S. government commits itself to, including the U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Student appeals case vs NMC, instructor

Meredith Oden, the student who had filed damage claims against the Northern Marianas College and accused an instructor of sexually harassing and molesting her in 1996, has elevated her legal battle to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Oden's lawyer, Douglas Cushnie, filed with the CNMI Supreme Court a notice of appeal Thursday, following the local court's affirmation of the dismissal of her damage claims. The High Court agreed with the Superior Court's decision to dismiss the case filed by the student on August 16, 2000 on the ground that the filing exceeded the prescribed period. The Supreme Court, through Chief Justice Miguel Demapan and Associate Justices John Manglona and Alejandro Castro, rendered the opinion in an August 8, 2003 written judgment.

Maharlika

TV show about Pinoys in the CNMI to air soon

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new talk show focusing on issues affecting the Filipino community in the CNMI and inspiring life stories of workers will soon hit TV screens with the premiere of *Usapang Pinoy* this month.

Produced by Digital Motion, *Usapang Pinoy* primarily aims to provide the Filipino community a venue to access factual information about the latest issues and happenings in the

Commonwealth.

"The concept of the show came about as a result of misinformation regarding many critical issues in the community, which in turn causes confusion among our *kababayans*. *Usapang Pinoy* will provide accurate information to the public to allow them to make informed choices," said Edwin Sta. Theresa, director and scriptwriter.

Sta. Theresa noted that besides being an informative show, *Usapang Pinoy* also seeks to inspire and bring hope to Filipino workers in the Northern Marianas with real-life stories and

successes of individuals who have business ventures in the CNMI or back in the Philippines.

"We cannot be employees and workers always, that's why our show will also promote the rewards of starting one's own business," he said.

Airing Thursdays and Sundays beginning Sept. 16 on Channel 14, *Usapang Pinoy* is hosted by Annamae Adaza and Michelle Villaraza, with Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr. as adviser and Kevin Jardiner as cameraman.

Sta. Theresa said the production team already taped six episodes, with the pi-

lot episode to feature Consul General Medardo Macaraig who will talk about the imminent closure of the Consulate.

Other future guests include Philippine Overseas Labor Office officer-in-charge Julia Fabian, Pats Bautista, DJ Zyra, Bads Camacho, Karen Villaraza, Pacific Islands Club's Paul Dujua, and Danny Banez who started his own karate studio on island.

Sta. Theresa disclosed that they will be taping on Monday an episode that will feature Guam Consul General Bayani Mangibin, who will lead the Agana Consulate in taking over the con-

sular responsibilities of the Saipan Consulate. Mangibin is scheduled to arrive Monday with Consul Gary Auxilian.

Usapang Pinoy will have a premiere night for its sponsors, including telecommunications company IT&E, and other invited guests on Sept. 13, Thursday, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater from 6pm to 7:30pm.

"We invite the Filipino community to watch and support *Usapang Pinoy*, a show that promises viewers engaging discussions and heartfelt accounts of Filipinos in the Marianas," said Sta. Theresa.



Members of the Samahang Tagalog Atbp. sa Ponape and College of Micronesia-FSM president Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. pose with the students who were awarded scholarship funds at the National Campus on Sept. 6, 2012.

Filipino group awards scholarship funds

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The Samahang Tagalog Atbp. sa Ponape, or STAP, awarded scholarships to seven College of Micronesia-FSM students at the National Campus on Sept. 6, 2012.

The scholarship recipients were Leola Primo, Laura Fujimoto, Cory Kuskin, Gracelyn Shirai, Andrea Ratloilug, Mary Joyce Pulmano, Tiffany Sanchez and COM-FSM Alumni and fourth-year University of Hawaii at Hilo student LaShauna Wilson. STAP has been awarding scholarships to COM-FSM students for the past 12 years.

On behalf of the college, president

Joseph M. Daisy, Ed.D. thanked the STAP officers and its members for their generosity.

After hearing about the students' future dreams, Daisy said that he was inspired. "It makes me want to work hard for the college and for all of you. You're talking about giving back, and that's so important. And that's what these generous people are working for to raise funds for you. They work hard to raise those funds. So someday, it will be your chance to give back, maybe the same way, or maybe in other ways," he said.

The Samahang Tagalog Atbp. sa Ponape is a regional association of Filipinos in Pohnpei. The primary purpose of the STAP scholarship assistance is to encourage Micronesian citizens to pursue a post-high school education by providing scholarship assistance to eligible applicants.

The STAP officers present during the awarding ceremony were president Jojo Maglaqui, vice president Jean Maglaqui, and members Ray Musada, Nelchor Permitz, Lyn Faustino, Rhea Joy Guiriba, and Rafael Pulmano. (COM-FSM)

PH's Guam consul to visit Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin will fly to Saipan next week in preparation for the transfer of responsibilities of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan to Agana in Guam.

Mangibin confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* via email that he and Consul Gary Auxilian will arrive on Monday for a five-day visit.

Saipan Consul General Medardo Macaraig said yesterday that part of the agenda of Mangibin and Auxilian's visit is a meeting with Filipino community leaders.

"That's an important part of the agenda and their visit is necessary because they're taking over the CNMI jurisdiction."

Macaraig said in an interview.

The two Guam Consulate officials will also have courtesy visits with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Senate President Paul Manglona, and Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown.

The visit, Macaraig said, will be an opportunity for Filipinos in the Commonwealth to express their concerns relating to the impending closure of the Saipan Consulate and the eventual takeover of the Guam Consulate.

The last day of the Saipan Consulate is on Oct. 31.

During the visit, Macaraig and Mangibin will also firm up plans on how to address administrative and other consular matters, including the continuation of the Saipan Consulate's livelihood and skills

upgrading program, quarterly health screenings, 2013 election, and what to do with consular assets and records.

According to Macaraig, there are individuals and organizations that are willing to carry on with the Saipan Consulate's programs but they will have to be sanctioned by the Guam Consulate.

"These programs can continue even after our closure. It's just a matter of organizing them. Whoever will handle the programs after we leave will be subject to the decision of Consul General Mangibin," he said.

Macaraig urged all Filipino organizations to send their representatives to take part in the meeting to get to know the Guam consular officials and for a smooth transition of consular responsibilities.

PH Consulate celebrates Peace Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

September is National Peace Consciousness Month and the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan is one with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process or OPAPP in fostering a culture of peace.

This year marks the 9th of celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month, which was declared by the government in 2004 with the issuance of Proclamation No. 675.

The monthlong celebration aims "to instill greater consciousness among Filipinos on the comprehensive peace process, and promote a culture of peace based on nonviolence, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, tolerance, understanding and solidarity," according to the OPAPP website.

OPAPP, which spearheads the Peace Month celebration, is the lead agency mandated to oversee, coordinate, and integrate the implementation of the comprehensive peace process.

September was selected for this celebration on account of the "significant milestones" that the country

has achieved in pursuit of the peace process during this month, including the creation of OPAPP in 1993, signing of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front, and the launching of the 2001-2010 International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World in 2000.

"The Philippine Consulate General enjoins all peace-loving Filipinos to reflect on the message of peace in September 2012 and in the days to come and encourages everyone to perform his or her role in achieving a just and lasting peace for our beloved Philippines," Consul General Medardo Macaraig said in a statement.

This year's theme, "Ako. Ikaw. Tayo. Magkakaiba, Nagkakaisa sa Kapayapaan," emphasizes "the importance of unity despite diversity and the individual participation of each Filipino in moving the peace process forward."

"With the mainstream message—I am for Peace—every Filipino has an interest and stake in achieving peace, regardless of differences in culture, religion or home region," said Macaraig.

► PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippine boat overturns; 3 dead, 2 missing

KIDAPAWAN, Philippines (AP)—Officials in the southern Philippines say an overcrowded passenger boat carrying mostly grade school students to a math contest has overturned. Three passengers died, two others were missing and more than a dozen were rescued. Police Superintendent Leo Ajero says waves generated by a passing vessel caused the motorboat to overturn along the Pulangi River in Kabacan town early Wednesday. Three bodies have been found. None of them were students, but one of the people missing is a student. Ajero says a search is continuing. It was not immediately clear if the students who survived the accident continued their trip to the Kabacan school to compete in the contest.

Canadian's Filipino wife suspected in his murder

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police have filed a murder complaint against the Filipino wife of a Canadian man who was gunned down at a beach resort in a southern city last month. Surigao City police investigator Rose Marie Almazan says prosecutors are expected to file a case next week

against Jane Doyle and three Filipino men for the Aug. 12 fatal shooting of 62-year-old Harry Doyle of Fredericton, New Brunswick. Almazan says Jane Doyle has fled to Canada but that Philippine police will seek her extradition after an arrest warrant is issued. Almazan said Thursday that Jane Doyle had romantic relations with one of the other suspects, the family's driver-bodyguard, and that she was seen talking with the two other suspects, including the alleged gunman, a week before the killing.

Exhibit of seized Imelda Marcos jewelry eyed

MANILA, Philippines (MCT)—The Philippines' tourism department said Thursday that it was considering a proposal to exhibit jewelry seized from former first lady Imelda Marcos in a bid to attract tourists. The proposal was made by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, an agency tasked with recovering billions of dollars of allegedly ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his family. Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez said that while the idea had "tremendous potential," his department had concerns about the venue, timing and appropriateness of such an exhibit.

261 comprise last batch of POLO training courses graduates

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 261 Filipinos recently graduated from the last batch of livelihood and skills upgrading courses offered by the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

Of this number, 37 finished the Building & Fixing Computers class of Marcelo V. Masilungan; 52 in Basic Automotive Troubleshooting by Rosendo V. Macea; 72 in Culinary Arts

(Japanese, Chinese & Mexican Cuisines) by Hermie Cornejo; 9 in Mandarin Language II by Reynaldo L. Garcia; 19 in Advanced Nihongo by Leopoldo O. Rodriguez Jr.; 30 in Basic Fruit and Vegetable Carving; and 42 in Basic Computer Operations II by Jousel Regilme.

The seven courses were the last to be offered by the Consulate, which will remain open to the public until Oct. 31.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig, in an interview, congratulated the graduates

for having completed the courses aimed at upgrading their skills that would aid them in finding alternative sources of livelihood.

"It takes time before they realize the benefits of these courses but without us knowing, I'm sure they already benefit from them," he said.

POLO officer-in-charge Julia Fabian, for her part, expressed hope that they were able to help Filipinos in the Commonwealth by offering these training courses.

"Our aim is to really prepare

and equip them in setting up a business, whether here or in the Philippines," she said in a separate interview.

Fabian also acknowledged all the instructors "for without them, we would not be able to implement our reintegration program."

With the program wrapping up—for now, until the next organization to take charge of the program is determined—Fabian

said they are focused on promoting the P2 billion reintegration program loan funding available for Filipino workers who want to start their own business in the Philippines.

"Any OWWA member with recorded contributions, not necessarily an active member, can avail of this program," said Fabian.

The OFW Reintegration Loan Program is a joint venture of the Department of Labor and Employment, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Land Bank of the Philippines, and the Development Bank of

the Philippines.

"Any OWWA member with recorded contributions, not necessarily an active member, can avail of this program," said Fabian.

A list of program eligibility and requirements is available at the POLO office. For more information, visit them at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe or call 235-3411.



Culinary arts class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Advanced Nihonggo class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Fruit and Vegetable Carving class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Basic Automotive Troubleshooting class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Mandarin II class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Basic Computer Operations II class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Samu't Sari



40TH ANNIVERSARY

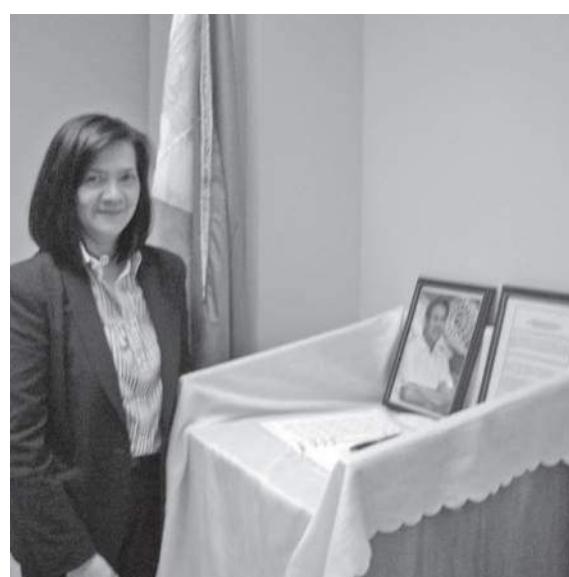
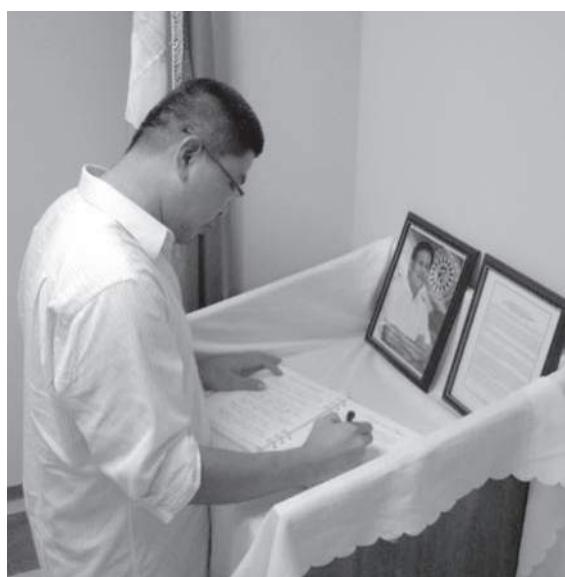
The staff of the Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic smile for the camera as they celebrate their 40th anniversary of providing excellent dental care in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PEACE ADVOCATES

Right, Consul General Medardo Macaraig, seated center, is flanked by Consulate employees for a souvenir photo as the office marked the beginning of the National Peace Consciousness Month this September.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

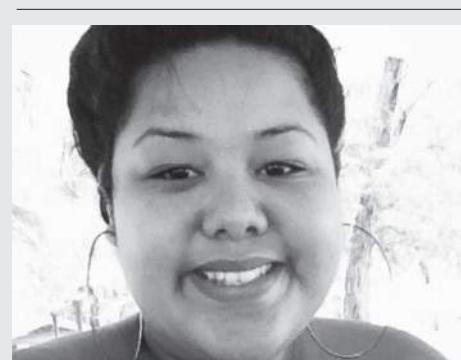


BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 75th birthday to our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Gregorio C. Deleon Guerrero "Goro Rai," who is celebrating his birthday on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012. We love you and wish you many more years to come. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Rasey Acosta! May you have many more to come, enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Randall and family, friends, and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday greetings go out to Bryan Chan, who is celebrating his special day today, Sept. 8, 2012! Wishing you all the fun and excitement that only birthdays can bring. Thank you in advance for our special lunch.



CONDOLENCES

Members of the community express their sympathies for the family of the late Jesse M. Robredo, secretary of the Philippine Department of the Interior and Local Government who died in a plane crash last month. From top, clockwise: Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr., Andrea Sablan, Flor Miranda, and Office of Insular Affairs' Jeff Schorr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Business

APEC seeks growth boost

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (AP)—Asia and Pacific leaders meeting in the Russian seaport of Vladivostok this weekend urgently need to push ahead with their agenda for freer trade. Faltering vital signs in China and elsewhere suggest the global recovery may depend on it.

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum aims to foster growth by dismantling barriers and bottlenecks that slow trade and business, while nurturing closer economic ties. But election-year politics and territorial spats are weakening the resolve of its 22 members to put aside differences for the sake of regional vitality.

Given its status as an organization governed by consensus, APEC is not known for major policy breakthroughs.

This year is particularly challenging: From the Kuril islands to the northeast of Vladivostok all the way to the Spratlys in the South China Sea, various neighbors are squabbling over territories at a time when they most need to be focused on promoting growth.

South Korea is feuding with Japan, Japan with China, China with many of its Southeast Asian neighbors. With elections due soon in South Korea and Japan, and a once-in-a-decade change in the Communist Party leadership pending in China, lame-duck leaders facing nationalist pressures at home have little room for amicably resolving the disputes.

"It's bad luck that it happens just before all these transitions. Everybody is looking around and saying, 'these people won't be at the table in

APEC's vital statistics

Leaders of the 21 nations in the trade-promotion group Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation will meet in Vladivostok, Russia, Sept. 8-9, 2012.

Member nations



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	In billions of U.S. dollars, 2011	Current account balance	
		GDP*	
Australia	\$1,488	-\$40.5	
Brunei	15.5	4.0	
Canada	1,737	-48.8	
Chile	248.4	3.2	
China	7,298	201.7	
Hong Kong (China)	243.3	9.4	
Indonesia	845.7	2.1	
Japan	5,869	120.5	
South Korea	1,116	29.8	
Malaysia	278.7	31.0	
Mexico	1,155	-8.8	
New Zealand	161.9	-7.1	
Papua New Guinea	12.7	-4.8	
Peru	173.5	-2.3	
Philippines	213.1	7.1	
Russia	1,850	101.3	
Singapore	259.8	57.0	
Taiwan	466.8	41.3	
Thailand	345.6	11.9	
U.S.	15,090	-473.4	
Vietnam	122.7	-1.9	

*Official exchange rate

Source: CIA World Factbook

three months,"' said William Overholt, an Asia expert at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

"The omens are not auspicious," he said.

As expected, on Thursday APEC finance ministers issued a declaration noting the crucial role the region plays in driving world growth and, as usual, their commitment to more open trade and investment.

The sharp decline in growth in trade this year—from 12 percent in December from a year

earlier to 4.6 percent in May—underscores the importance of pushing ahead with trade initiatives, the APEC Policy Support Unit, an independent data analysis and research unit, said in a report issued Friday.

"APEC is really focused on trade and commercial facilitation, but this year these guys are mainly playing to the home crowds. These things are impacting what can possibly be done in Vladivostok," said Tony Nash, managing director at IHS Global Insight in Singapore.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Amazon takes on iPad with larger Kindle Fire

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Amazon unveiled four new Kindle Fire tablet computers on Thursday, including ones with larger color screens, as the online retailer steps up competition with Apple ahead of the holiday shopping season. Amazon.com Inc. showed off the larger Kindle Fire with a high-definition display amid expectations that Apple Inc. will introduce a smaller iPad as early as next week. The larger Fires will have screens that measure 8.9 inches diagonally, compared with 9.7 inches for the iPad. The original Fire had 7-inch screens. The basic version of the larger Fire will sell for \$299, or \$100 less than the cheapest iPad.

US hiring outlook improves as jobless claims drop

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, and a private survey showed businesses stepped up hiring in August. The data sketched a brighter outlook for the job market one day before the government reports on August employment. Weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell by 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 365,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, ticked up to 371,250. Unemployment benefit applications

are a measure of the pace of layoffs.

UN: No evidence of new food price crisis

ROME (AP)—Prices of basic foods remained flat in August, offering assurances that a repeat of the global food price crisis that sparked rioting several years ago is unlikely, U.N. food agency officials said Thursday. While current prices are still high, they are lower than the levels that triggered rioting and unrest in parts of the developing world in 2007-2008. Another food crisis, in 2010-2011, also caused hardships for poorer consumers, especially in countries heavily dependent on food imports.

Recession 'taking hold' in Eurozone, OECD says

PARIS (AP)—Europe's debt crisis is pushing the 17-country eurozone toward recession and dragging down the global economy, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Thursday. Even growth in traditional economic powerhouse Germany is slowing, and the OECD's interim assessment said that Europe's largest economy could slip into recession by the end of the year. OECD Chief economist Pier Carlo Padoa said the good news was that the global economy was not in recession, but that avoiding one would depend on what politicians do in the coming months.

Nation

IN ASKING FOR A SECOND TERM

Obama says nation will recover



AP

Vice President Joe Biden and President Barack Obama wave to the delegates at the conclusion of President Obama's speech at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—His re-election in doubt, President Barack Obama conceded only halting progress Thursday night toward fixing the nation's stubborn economic woes but vowed in a Democratic National Convention finale, "Our problems can be solved, our challenges can be met."

"Yes, our path is harder—but it leads to a better place," he declared in a prime-time speech to convention delegates and the nation, blending resolve about rescuing the nation from near economic catastrophe with stinging criticism of Republican rival Mitt Romney's own proposals.

Widely viewed as reserved, even aloof, Obama acknowl-

edged "my own failings" as he asked for a second term, four years after taking office as the nation's first black president.

Citing progress toward recovery, he said, "After a decade that was defined by what we bought and borrowed, we're getting back to basics and doing what America has always done best: We're making things again."

"Four more years," delegates chanted over and over as the 51-year-old Obama stepped to the podium, noticeably grayer than he was as a history-making candidate for the White House in 2008.

First Lady Michelle Obama and the couple's daughters,

Malia and Sasha, joined the president on stage in the moments after the speech, followed by other family members and Vice President Joe Biden and his wife. Strains of "Only in America" filled the hall as confetti filled the air.

Obama's speech was the final act of a pair of highly scripted national political conventions in as many weeks, and the opening salvo of a two-month drive toward Election Day that pits Obama against Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts.

Not only economic proposals will settle a tight contest for the White House in a dreary season of economic struggle for millions, but also campaign cash.

Jury convicts Drew Peterson of 3rd wife's death

JOLIET, Ill. (AP)—Drew Peterson—the crass former Illinois police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger wife vanished in 2007—was convicted Thursday of murdering a previous wife in a potentially precedent-setting case centered on secondhand hearsay statements.

Peterson, 58, sat stoically looking straight ahead and did not react as the judge announced jurors had found him guilty of first-degree murder in the death of his third wife,

Kathleen Savio. Her relatives gasped, then fell into each other's arms and cried.

Illinois has no death penalty, and Peterson now faces a maximum 60-year prison term when sentenced Nov. 26.

Both relief and excitement showed on the faces of Savio's family members as they stepped out of the crowded courtroom. Her sister, Susan Doman, threw herself into the arms of her husband.

"Finally, finally, finally," Mitch Doman, Savio's broth-

er-in-law, said as he and his wife cried. Seconds later, he looked up at a reporter and said with a smile, "We finally got that murdering bastard!"

The trial was the first of its kind in Illinois history, with prosecutors building their case largely on hearsay thanks to a new law, dubbed "Drew's Law," tailored to Peterson's case. That hearsay, prosecutors had said, would let his third and fourth wives "speak from their graves" through family and friends to convict Peterson.

Visible from space: Curiosity tire tracks on Mars

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA's robotic rover Curiosity is making its mark on Mars, in a way so big that it can be seen from space.

In just one month, it's driven 368 feet on the red planet, slightly more than the length of a football field. Curiosity's slightly zig-zaggy tire tracks were photographed by a

NASA satellite circling Mars and also from the rover's rear-facing cameras.

The spacecraft landed on Aug. 5 on a mission to look for ingredients in Martian soil and rocks that could support life.

When the images from the Martian satellite showed the rover tracks, "there was much high-fiving," mission man-

ager Michael Watkins said Thursday. He said engineers were thrilled by the idea that "we left tracks on Mars that we can see from orbit" because it gave them a visible sense of accomplishment.

Other rovers have left tracks on Mars, but not as deep or wide as Curiosity's, Watkins said.

Asia

Indon describes plot on police video

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Six men associated with an Islamic school founded by a radical cleric plotted to set off bombs and shoot police to wage “holy war” in an Indonesian town, one of the suspects said in an interrogation video released by police Thursday.

Two suspected militants and a member of an elite anti-terrorism squad were killed last Friday when police raided the group in Central Java. Bayu Setiono, 22, was arrested during the raid, another man was arrested Wednesday and two suspects are at large.

The group is accused of killing a police officer last week and attacking two police posts in mid-August as part of the plot in the town of Solo.

In the 10-minute video released at police headquarters, Setiono described their group as an “underground group without amir (leader), without baiat (pledging of allegiance).

“We planned to kill policemen and create a situation like

Ambon and Poso, for the sake of upholding Islamic Shariah and the establishment of a caliphate in Indonesia,” Setiono said, referring to the Muslim-Christian conflict that killed thousands from 1999 into the 2000s.

“Our targets, since 2007 until now, are infidels and policemen,” he said.

One plan for him, Farhan Mujahidin and Mukhsin Sanny Permadi to finance their plot by robbing a gold shop failed due to the presence of a police officer. “We cancelled the plan, and Farhan was angry and said such police has to be killed,” Setiono said. The two other men were killed in last week’s raid.

Another suspect, Firman Firmansyah, who allegedly drove a motorbike used in the storming of the police post in Solo on Aug. 30, was arrested Wednesday in the West Java town of Depok.

Setiono had worked at Al-Mukmin Islamic school in the Central Java town of Ngruki,

while the five others were alumni of the school, co-founded by convicted radical Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir.

Farhan returned to Indonesia early this year after studying the military and fighting in the Philippines for two years, Setiono said in the video.

“My role was to survey the targets set by Farhan,” said Setiono who once joined with Sigit Qurdowi, a leader of a little-known militant group called Hisbah, who was killed along with his bodyguard, Hendro Yulianto by an anti-terror squad in May last year.

He added that Qurdowi, who led attacks in Central Java and West Java in 2010 and 2011, had smuggled firearms from the Philippines and sold them in Jakarta, Solo and West Java towns of Cirebon and Bekasi.

In the video, Setiono who was moved Wednesday from Central Java to Jakarta, also apologized to Solo residents for causing restlessness among them.

Japan utility: No money to develop renewables

TOKYO (AP)—The head of the Japanese utility that owns the tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant says last year’s meltdowns sapped away money it might have used to switch to alternative energy, making it all the more important for the company to stick with nuclear.

Naomi Hirose, president of Tokyo Electric Power Co., said Thursday it is “quite troubling” that the government, responding to public opinion, is moving toward eliminating nuclear power, but he said TEPCO would follow whatever energy policy Japan adopts.

The March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami wiped out the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant and caused extensive radioactive meltdowns that took months to control and will take

decades to clean up. It was the world’s worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

TEPCO was saddled with huge compensation and cleanup costs after the nuclear crisis. The company was nationalized in July after receiving a trillion yen (\$12.8 billion) public bailout.

The company had attempted some diversification of its energy mix before the tsunami. TEPCO built three mega-solar power plants and more than a dozen windmills with its affiliate, Eurus Energy Holdings Corp.

But the company’s difficult financial picture following the crisis means it doesn’t have the money to invest in renewable energy, Hirose told The Associated Press at TEPCO headquarters in Tokyo.

Agent Orange victims get Scientology ‘detox’

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese with ailments linked to Agent Orange are undergoing a “detoxification” treatment involving saunas and vitamins that was developed by the Church of Scientology and which has been criticized as pseudoscientific.

Scientologists use the “Hubbard Method” to try to cure drug addiction and alcoholism. The church set up a center in New York after the 9/11 attacks offering a similar service for first responders who may have been exposed to toxins.

A group of 24 people arrived for treatment at a military hospital in Hanoi for a month, free of charge, Dau Xuan Tuong, deputy administrator at the Vietnam Association of Agent Orange

acres (2 million hectares) of forest—roughly the size of Massachusetts—to remove the foliage that concealed enemy fighters.

Dioxins in it have since been linked to birth defects, cancers and other ailments, but the United States maintains there is no evidence Agent Orange has caused the health problems among Vietnamese. Washington has compensated American soldiers for ailments they say were caused by the compound, however.

“I hope my wife and I will fully recover completely and will not suffer after-effects to pass on to my descendants,” prospective patient Nguyen Dai Sang was quoted as saying in the Viet Nam News daily.

World

Girl hid under bodies after slayings



A tow truck with the car where four people were shot dead leaves the site of killings near Chevaline, French Alps, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012. AP

ANNECY, France (AP)—For at least eight hours, the 4-year-old girl lay motionless, frightened and alone, hiding under her dead mother’s skirt on the floor of a BMW after a killing spree in the French Alps. As the hours ticked by, police peered through the car’s windows at the lifeless bodies of her parents and grandmother.

Only after police forensic experts finally arrived shortly before midnight from Paris, peeling back the blood-stained layers of the grisly crime scene, did the girl crawl out apparently unharmed—asking, with a smile and hugs, where her family was.

The motive for the slayings of the family and a French cyclist whose body was found nearby remained unclear Thursday, a day after the bodies were found in a wooded area up a mountain road from the village of Chevaline, near bucolic Annecy Lake.

Earlier, rescuers had whisked the child’s wounded 7-year-old sister to a hospital as helicopters scanned the area. All the while, immobilized by fear, the girl had remained huddled alone, steps away from investigators.

Never did they think anyone else was still alive.

“The girl was found totally

immobile behind the front passenger-side seat, under the legs—under the skirt—of one of the women, hidden behind a large travel bag, totally invisible and silent, which explains why no one saw her before,” French state prosecutor Eric Maillaud told a news conference in Annecy.

The case took on international ramifications, with links that tied the slain family to Britain, Iraq and Sweden.

The murders first came to light when a British cyclist telephoned authorities after passing the body of the slain Frenchman. The Briton—a former Royal Air Force pilot—then saw the badly wounded older girl lunging toward him. The car’s motor still running, he laid the child on the ground to give her first aid that French authorities said saved her life.

The go-ahead to open up the car and start unraveling the mystery was given only after police forensic experts flew in—hours after the British cyclist’s call. Authorities insisted they didn’t want to compromise the crime scene.

Maillaud said three of the victims—the man, the elderly woman and the French cyclist—had gunshot wounds to the head, while the cause of

death of the younger woman was still under investigation.

“We strictly don’t know why these people were killed,” Maillaud said, adding that about 15 bullet casings were found around the car. “What is certain is that someone wanted to kill.”

He said authorities were searching for suspects and had not ruled out anything, including the possibilities that the attack was intended to settle a score or simply that the family was “in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

The two children were put under police protection, and the prosecutor warned that the killer might try to “get rid of” witnesses to a “scene of immense savagery.”

Maillaud said the BMW station wagon was registered to a British man born in Baghdad in 1962. The man, whom he did not identify, had lived in Britain since at least 2002, and his family had been in France since August, camping at Annecy Lake since Monday.

The Sipa news agency identified the driver as Saad al Hilli, a resident of a London suburb. Public records identified him as a mechanical engineer and his LinkedIn page described him as an aerospace consultant.

WORLD BRIEFS

Turkey: 25 killed in ammunition depot blast

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—An explosion and blaze triggered by an accidentally dropped hand grenade killed 25 soldiers during a stock check at a Turkish ammunition depot, the government said Thursday. Four other soldiers were injured in the blast, which lit up the night sky late Wednesday with flames, and shattered windows in homes in the nearby town of Afyonkarahisar in western Turkey, terrifying residents. Forestry and Water Minister Veysel Eroglu ruled out terrorism and sabotage, saying the blast occurred in

a section where hand grenades were kept.

Syrian troops take town on refugee flight route

BEIRUT (AP)—After hours of heavy shelling, Syrian troops recaptured a border town Thursday in what activists said was a government attempt to stem the flood of people fleeing their country’s civil war. In the latest clashes, hundreds of Syrian soldiers backed by 20 tanks assaulted Tel Chehab, according to Abu Houran and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

YoungStyle

Where'd the time go? Obama girls now young women

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Who are those tall, willowy young women with Barack and Michelle Obama—and where'd they hide little Sasha and Malia?

Four years is a long time when it's a half or a third of your life, and so TV viewers who haven't seen the Obama girls much since 2008 may be truly startled at just how much they've grown when they appear after their father's speech Thursday night.

"It's kind of like coming home for Christmas after many years," says Douglas Wead, author and expert on presidential offspring. "People are going to be very surprised."

"We're really going to be seeing them as young women," says Sandra Sobieraj, a correspondent for People magazine who has long covered first families. "It will be stunning, because we don't see them regularly. There hasn't been a steady stream of images to relate to."

Malia is now 14, and this week started (gasp!) high school. Sasha is 11, now in sixth grade. Malia is nearly as tall as her parents: "Even though she's 5-9, she's still my baby," Obama said two years ago. As for Sasha, her parents told People last month that she's grown a foot in the last year, and suddenly resists cuddling.

It's hard to believe that only four years ago, at the 2008 convention in Denver, Sasha, then 7, fidgeted in her purple frock, little white barrettes on either side of her head. "Daddy, what city are you in?" she called out in a high-pitched voice as her dad appeared on a huge video screen the night of Michelle Obama's speech. "I love you, Daddy!" called out Malia, 10, looking a bit older in a two-toned dress with straps.

Then came the iconic images on election night in Chicago. There was Sasha in a black party dress, bounding gleefully up into her father's arms, planting a big kiss on his cheek—a re-



In this Sept. 4, 2012 file image originally released by the White House, President Barack Obama and his daughters, Malia, left, and Sasha, watch first lady Michelle Obama speak at the Democratic National Convention on television from the Treaty Room of the White House.

minder that young children were about to live in the White House for the first time since Chelsea Clinton, Amy Carter, and before them, the younger Kennedy kids, Caroline and John.

And of course there was the inauguration. Who could resist the sight of Malia, in a periwinkle-blue coat and fluffy black scarf, snapping pictures from her enviable perch on the inaugural podium?

Just the night before, she and Sasha, whose inaugural outfit was a light pink coat, had danced onstage with the Jonas Brothers—a perfect example of how, as much as her parents vowed to keep their lives as nor-

mal as possible, the girls were truly celebrities from Day One.

For the president and first lady, protecting their privacy was an evolving skill. Candidate Obama quickly regretted, for example, an all-family interview granted to the TV show "Access Hollywood."

Once the family arrived at the White House, strict arrangements were in place. The news media traditionally respects the privacy of a president's young children and doesn't photograph or report on them unless they are in a public setting with their parents.

Yet the couple constantly talks about their kids. At times the president has

embarrassed them, as when he told an audience that Malia once got a 73 on a science test. (He later apologized.)

Two years ago, when Malia first went to summer camp, the White House discouraged mention of it in the media, even though Obama mentioned it in interviews. And recently he revealed the state where both daughters had just spent a month at camp—New Hampshire.

"They just love talking about their girls," says Sobieraj. "They get genuine joy from them, and so they talk about it. To a degree that makes the staff uncomfortable, because the line is shifting."

Other White House kids have led less public lives, perhaps a function

of the times. Jackie Kennedy was so concerned about keeping her kids out of view that she organized kindergarten for Caroline inside the White House. (She was out of town when her husband allowed those famous photos of Caroline and John in the White House to be taken, Wead says.)

And Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton were extremely protective of Chelsea, who entered the White House at an awkward stage. Her parents were furious when Mike Myers referred to their daughter in an insulting way on "Saturday Night Live"; the comic later apologized.

Whereas many White House children through history seem to suffer some sort of embarrassment or scandal, the Obama girls have had none.

"Compared to other White House families, this is clearly the most functional," says Wead, who chronicles a host of misfortunes of past White House kids in his book, "All the President's Children." (He's now working on a book about White House siblings.) "This has been one of the most successful stories."

One reason, he says, may be that the Obamas clearly relish spending time with their kids. The first family is well known to have dinner together in the White House most nights; Michelle Obama in her convention speech evoked the image of the family "strategizing about middle-school friendships."

That will likely help the president avoid some of the guilt that, Wead says, has afflicted some presidents of the past who spent little time with their offspring—like that which he says overcame Ulysses S. Grant on the occasion of his daughter's White House wedding. She left on her honeymoon, and Wead says the president then collapsed on her bed and wept.

"He had been so busy as president that he felt he had missed her life," Wead says. "It all had happened too fast for him."

A wonderful time to be a young reader

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For years, the book industry has been mired in debates about the plight of independent booksellers, the rise of Amazon and the fate of print as it struggles with the relentless march of technology. But doom-and-gloomers forecasting "the end of books" probably haven't strolled through the children's section lately or considered what's coming this season, from picture books through titles for teens.

This fall's offerings span a wide variety of topics and suggest why children's books have turned into the fastest-growing segment of the publishing industry.

The magical spell J.K. Rowling cast over kid lit with "Harry Potter" found new blood with Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" saga and most recently, Suzanne Collins' fight-to-the-death "The Hunger Games," creating a halo effect

for the entire genre that doesn't show any signs of slowing. Last year, overall publisher revenues for children's books were up 12 percent, to \$2.78 billion, and e-books made astounding gains, according to BookStats, a collaboration of the Association of American Publishers and the Book Industry Study Group.

This year is no different. It used to be that when readers finished a groundbreaking series, they struggled to find others with similar appeal. No more. The millions of readers who followed Bella as she pursued supernatural true love or Katniss as she navigated a post-apocalyptic U.S. can now find dozens of bestselling paranormal and dystopian series that will see further installments this fall.

Similarly, in the middle-grade space, Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" has opened up a whole genre of illustrated, humorous, confessional-style bestsellers, which

will continue in the coming months.

That's to say nothing of the increasing numbers of celebrities and well-known adult-book authors who are applying their talents to younger readerships this season—including Emma Thompson with a Peter Rabbit picture book and Elizabeth George with her young adult debut—and legions of talented unknowns who are likely to score hits with their children's book debuts, such as Stefan Bachmann and his buzzed-about fairy tale, "The Peacock," and Fiona Paul's Renaissance murder-romance, "Venom." In fact, many forthcoming children's books have already been snatched up by movie studios.

The young adult, or YA, category is particularly healthy as a result of blockbuster franchises and strong crossover readership. Many young adult books are read as much by adults as they are by their intended teen audiences.

Scholastic reports that 50 percent of



the readers of "The Hunger Games" are adults. And more than half of the readers of the bestseller "Divergent" by Veronica Roth are at least 25 years old, according to a HarperCollins spokeswoman.

The stigma of adults "reading down" with children's titles is gone, said David Levithan, editorial director of Scholastic Press, which also published the Harry Potter series in the U.S.

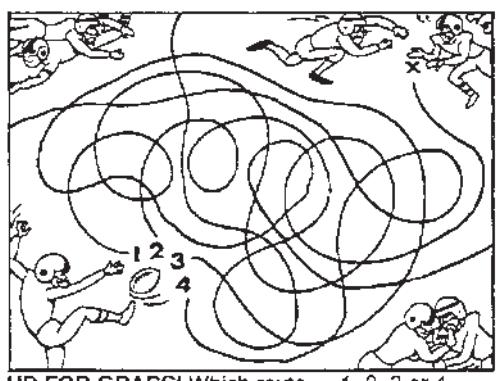
"Adults have no hesitation at all to buy young adult anymore, so it's very easy to cross over," said Levithan, who anticipates high adult readership

for "The Raven Boys," a mythological paranormal thriller kicking off a four-book series by "Shiver" trilogy author Maggie Stiefvater, another Scholastic writer.

Like "The Raven Boys," many of the most anticipated titles for fall hybridize genres. Libba Bray's "Diviners," for example, is paranormal historical fiction that follows a young woman during the Roaring '20s who becomes embroiled in an occult-related murder mystery.

Paramount has already optioned Bray's book for film, which shows that readers aren't the only ones interested in what's coming.

"We're finding as much interest from networks and studios. They are so hungry for teen content they're acquiring rights even before the books come out," said Susan Katz, president and publisher of HarperCollins Children's Books. On Tuesday, the publisher will release "Don't Turn Around" from debut author Michelle Gagnon. The thriller, about a teen computer hacker, has already been optioned for television.



UP FOR GRABS! Which route — 1, 2, 3 or 4 — does the football take to reach receiver at point X? It's for you to decide.

POST HASTE! Quickly, name the M state designated by each of the following postal abbreviations. MA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT. See if you can name them all.

SIX PACK! You will note that with the exception of numbers in a single diagonal row, all three-number rows in the diagram shown total six. However, it is possible to shift just one row of numbers and have all horizontal and vertical rows, and both diagonals, total six. Let's see how quickly you can make this adjustment.

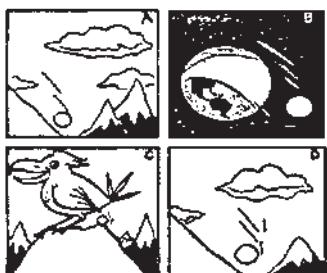
Time limit: Two minutes.

P.S.: There is more than one way to achieve the desired result. Two answers are given below.

One way: Place bottom row of numbers at the top. Another way: Move column at left to the side at right.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



MUSING OVER HIGH POINTS

HOW did earth's satellite, the moon, go into orbit? Perhaps it just snowballed down a mountain as suggested at left. See if you can put these panels in a logical order.

And, speaking of mountains, each continent has its highest peak. See if you can match these continents with peaks listed below:

1. Africa _____

2. Asia _____

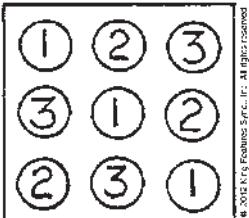
3. Europe _____

4. N. America _____

5. S. America _____

Peaks: Aconcagua, Elbrus, Everest, Kilimanjaro, McKinley.

P.S.: Which peak is highest?



Panel order: C, A, D, 3, 1, Kilmajaro, 2, 6,000 feet. Everest is highest by some 6,000 feet. Aconcagua, Elbrus, McKinley, 5. Kilimanjaro, 5. McKinley, 5. Aconcagua, 6,962. Panel order: C, A, D, 3, 1, Kilmajaro, 2, 6,000 feet. Everest is highest by some 6,000 feet. Aconcagua, Elbrus, McKinley, 5. Kilimanjaro, 5. McKinley, 5. Aconcagua, 6,962.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was British playwright and noted wit Oscar Wilde who made the following sage observation: "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go."

■ If you're like the typical human, your brain makes up only 2 percent of your body's weight, but it uses about 20 percent of your body's energy.

■ Some people, it seems, have more money than sense. For example, in December of 2008, some unknown person paid \$5,300 to buy a single tissue off eBay. What was so special about the tissue? Reportedly, it was used once by actress Scarlett Johansson. Fortunately, proceeds from the sale benefited a nonprofit organization.

■ The average ant lives less than two months.

■ Using leeches as a form of medical treatment is archaic, right? Maybe not so much. As recently as 2004, a request to market leeches as medical devices was approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

■ When the infamous Titanic was being built, shifts were 14 hours a day, and workers only had one day off a week. Each day, each worker was allowed a total of seven minutes for bathroom breaks.

■ Those who study such things say that marriages involving so-called mail-order brides have a lower rate of divorce than marriages that come about in more traditional ways.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Among men, it seems, historically at any rate, that processes of co-ordination and disintegration follow each other with great regularity, and the index of the co-ordination is the measure of the disintegration which follows. There is no mob like a group of well-drilled soldiers when they have thrown off their discipline. And there is no lostness like that which comes to a man when a perfect and certain pattern has dissolved about him. There is no hater like one who has greatly loved." —John Steinbeck

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MAGIC MAZE • UNIONIZED

LMK I F D B Y S S T O L I P

M L B P L A Y E R S E W U S Q

I O M K I F R E E R D S S B Z

N X W U S I H Q R E S N R O N

E E L J P C H F O Y Y A H U D

R C M M A A Y W B A E I T S N

S V U E S R E Y A L K C I R B

T S T Q R P N L L P C I R O K

I H F E C I L O P A O S W T E

C B Z Y W V F U S B J U R C Q

S R E Y A L P L F N P M N A M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Actors	Laborers	NBA players	Teachers
Bricklayers	Miners	NFL players	Umpires
Firemen	MLB players	Nurses	Writers
Jockeys	Musicians	Police	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

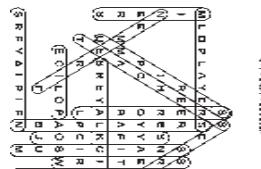
DIFFICULTY: ★★★

* Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		7
x		+		÷	
÷		x			21
÷	x		+		
-		x			8
3	20		9		
1	2	3	5	6	7
7	8	9			

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	-	20	9	
6	-	5	x	8
6	-	5	x	8
9	-	3	x	7
9	-	3	x	7
2	-	1	x	7

Wild animals pose threat to pets

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: A number of cats in our area disappeared this spring and summer, and I noticed the rabbits that used to plague our garden don't come as frequently. A neighbor told me he saw a coyote crossing the street just before dawn recently, and I suspect it is the cause of many of these disappearances. Please warn your readers they need to protect their pets as wild animals are encroaching on well-populated neighborhoods.—Pat C., Weston, Mass.



eases, some predators find smaller pets to be easy, tasty prey.

Keep cats and small dogs indoors at night. If wild animals have been reported in your area, don't let your pet out unaccompanied or off a leash, even during the day when no danger is apparent. Keep your pet's vaccinations up to date.

If you have pets, like rabbits, that are kept outside, reinforce and strengthen protective fencing around their cages.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. If your question or comment is printed in the weekly column, you'll receive a free copy of "Fighting Fleas," the newest booklet from Paws Corner!

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Spanish tortilla is healthy snack

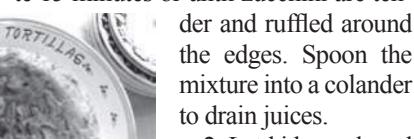
When I return from a trip, some of my best souvenirs are recipes collected along the way. While photographs provide a visual journal of our adventures, preparing a new dish is like a journal of the senses. The aroma in our kitchen and robust tastes at first bite bring back the memory of people and places.

Now back home from a trip to the Colorado mountains, I'm eager to prepare the Spanish tortilla recipe my friend Joana Iniguez, originally from Barcelona, taught me in her bright kitchen nestled in Aspen.

"It's Spanish tradition to make a 'tortilla' as a snack (tapa) or for picnics and serve slices warm or cool," she said as she expertly sliced a zucchini into almost paper-thin disks. "It's commonly prepared with potatoes, eggs, onions, olive oil and salt, but I prefer replacing the potatoes with zucchini for a sweeter taste."

"Best of all, it's a special hit with my 9- and 10 year-old nieces, who are generally picky eaters," she added.

While zucchini are still plentiful, prepare this tortilla with your kids and enjoy it as a healthy snack or evening meal on a busy school night. Serve with crusty bread, and do like the kids in Barcelona: Cut a juicy, ripe tomato in half, squeeze out some of the center portion onto a slice of French bread and drizzle with a bit of olive oil. Pure deliciousness!



2. Let kids crack and whisk the eggs in a large bowl. Stir in drained zucchini mixture and remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt.

3. Heat a 10-inch nonstick skillet drizzled with oil. Add the egg mixture and cook on low heat, stirring occasionally until eggs have set and bottom is golden, about 10-12 minutes.

4. Run a spatula around the edges. Place a flat, rimless frying-pan lid that is larger than the tortilla over the skillet. Hold the lid handle with one hand and the skillet with the other, let the kids count to three, and then quickly flip the tortilla onto the lid. Slide the flipped tortilla back into the skillet and cook for 3-5 minutes, until firm. Slide onto a flat plate, slice and serve.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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SPANISH TORTILLA WITH ZUCCHINI

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 6 medium zucchini (about 2 1/2 pounds total), cut in very thinly sliced rounds using a knife or mandoline
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt

Life & Style

One Direction barge in on Rihanna's party at VMAs

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

There may have been no signature moment at this year's MTV Video Music Awards, but there was a signature sound: the screams of teenage girls wild about One Direction.

It stopped just short of a British invasion, but the hunky teens in the boy band won three awards on Thursday night's show and barged in on Rihanna's party.

Rihanna kicked off things with a spicy performance to open Thursday night's show, then ended it by taking the show's top honor, video of the year, for her steamy hit "We Found Love."

"Doesn't my girl Rihanna look sexy tonight?" Katy Perry asked the crowd after the performance.

And the night's lead nominee did, showing up in a pixie cut and a figure-hugging, elegant scoop-backed white dress before changing into a flowing red outfit for her medley of new single "Cockiness (I Love It)" with rapper A\$AP Rocky and "We Found Love." She brushed imaginary dust from her shoulder as she walked to the stage to thank fans and her creative team.

The camera returned to the pop star often—except when it was on One Direction, which provided the night's most screamed-over performance. The band won best pop video, best new artist and most share-worthy video.

"We've grown up watching this show and to even be here is an honor," Niall Horan said from the stage.

The quintet, put together by Simon Cowell after "The X Factor" auditions and the first British act to debut atop the Billboard 200 album chart, seemed stunned as fans screamed upon announcement of their win.

The group performed later, rising to a stairwell surrounded by screaming, reaching female fans on an elevated platform and bringing most attendees to their feet. Members of the U.S. gymnastics team sang along to their song "One Thing" and cameras caught Perry and Rihanna whispering to each other.



AP

Members of the British band One Direction, from left, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne, Zayn Malik and Harry Styles perform at the MTV Video Music Awards on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012, in Los Angeles.

WINNERS' LIST

Here are the winners of Thursday night's 29th annual MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles:

- **Video of the year:** Rihanna featuring Calvin Harris, "We Found Love."
- **Best pop video:** One Direction, "What Makes You Beautiful."
- **Best new artist:** One Direction, "What Makes You Beautiful."
- **Best female video:** Nicki Minaj, "Starships."
- **Best male video:** Chris Brown, "Turn Up The Music."
- **Best hip-hop video:** Drake featuring Lil Wayne, "HYFR."
- **Best video with a message:** Devi Lovato, "Skyscraper."
- **Best electronic dance music video:** Calvin Harris, "Feel So Close."
- **Most share-worthy video:** One Direction, "What Makes You Beautiful."
- **Best rock video:** Coldplay, "Paradise."
- **Best direction:** M.I.A., "Bad Girls."
- **Best art direction:** Katy Perry, "Wide Awake."
- **Best choreography:** Chris Brown, "Turn Up the Music."
- **Best editing:** Beyoncé, "Countdown."
- **Best visual effects:** Skrillex, "First of the Year (Equinox)."
- **Best cinematography:** M.I.A., "Bad Girls."

"This has been unbelievable," Harry Styles said backstage. "This was our favorite performance we've ever done. For us to be here in the first place is amazing, and to perform and win a Moonman is amazing."

While there was no easily identifiable signature moment early on, there were a few interesting sights. Pink floated above the crowd on a pair of oversized lips as she performed her new song "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)" before Frank Ocean wowed with a somber, moonlit version of his song "Thinking About You." Then there was Olympic champion Gabby Douglas flipping on stage to new Alicia Keys song "Girl on Fire," and Taylor Swift dove into the crowd after a group sing-a-long of her new hit "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Chris Brown pulled off something of an upset in the best male video category. Rihanna's former boyfriend won for his self-directed video "Turn Up The Music," beating out several top stars, including Drake, who tied Rihanna for most nominations with five. Brown also won for best cinematography. M.I.A. was the night's only other multiple winner, taking two off-camera awards for direction and cinematography.

Drake won best hip-hop video for "HYFR," which featured Lil Wayne. He talked about his black and Jewish roots growing up in Toronto and his sometimes outsider status.

"I want to dedicate this award to any kid that's ever had a long walk home by yourself," Drake said. "This is for you, man, for real. We made it."

Host Kevin Hart, who promised no one would be spared his comedic barbs, opened up old wounds between Brown and Drake in his opening monologue, spoofing the two for the bar brawl that took place between their entourages in June.

Drake and friends Nicki Minaj and Lil Wayne sat stone-faced as Hart joked: "Nip it in the bud, guys. I'm tired of it. Fix it tonight."

Minaj, dressed in a skintight full-body outfit, won best female video for "Starships." Coldplay took best rock video for "Paradise." And Calvin Harris—the show's house DJ who's featured on "We Found Love"—won the first best electronic dance music award for "Feel So Close." Beyoncé, Perry, Skrillex and Demi Lovato won awards not televised on the show.

MTV tried something new this year, unveiling a double-decker red carpet that featured two stories of stars and celebrities. Thousands of fans lined up outside the show's new home, the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

In a bit of foreshadowing, One Direction drew the loudest cheers of the day—something even rivals The Wanted acknowledged—even though fans had to labor under a scorching sun with the temperature at 90 degrees.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Scarlett Johansson urges young to get involved

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Actress Scarlett Johansson is urging young people to make their voices heard by casting ballots in the 2012 election. The star of "The Avengers" tells the Democratic National Convention that less than half of all eligible voters between 18 and 24 voted in the presidential election four years ago. The 27-year-old Johansson says that major issues are at stake for her generation, including access to health care, affordable college tuition and the guarantee of equal pay. Actress

Kerry Washington spoke with Johansson on Thursday night and described herself as the granddaughter of Ellis Island immigrants who could not have afforded college without the help of student loans. The 35-year-old Washington says that people who don't vote risk losing basic rights that their parents and grandparents fought for.

Tyra Banks to host 'Flawsome Ball' for girls club

NEW YORK (AP)—Tyra Banks will host a gala dubbed the "Flawsome Ball" to benefit a New York City girls club. The former

model and talk-show host was to announce the event Thursday. Drake will perform at the ball, which is to benefit the Tyra Banks Tzone at the Lower Eastside Girls Club. Banks formed Tzone in 1999 as a weeklong camp for girls, but the organization is now making a permanent, physical home at the New York girls club. The Flawsome Ball takes its name from a word coined by Banks that combines "flaws" and "awesome" to celebrate individuality. It will be held Oct. 18. The 38-year-old Banks is host and executive producer of the CW series "America's Next Top Model."

Anonymous love note to boy backfires on tearful teenager

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I really need some advice or I'm going to cry my eyes out. I'm a 14-year-old girl and I really like this guy at school. I'm shy, so instead of telling him, I drew a picture of him, wrote on the back that I like him and taped it to his locker so he could see it. I didn't sign it.

He thought it was weird and doesn't know it's me. He already has a girlfriend and she hates what I did. She says she thinks whoever did it is a stalker.

I feel really stupid. I don't know what to do now. I wasn't trying to be creepy. I just wanted him to know how much I love him. Should I tell him it was me? I'm so confused. Please help.

HOPELESS AND LOVELESS



Dear Abby

DEAR H. AND L.: Dry your tears and take advantage of this learning experience. We have all had them. If you are smart—and I think you are—you will not reveal that it was you who put the picture on the locker. The boy is already involved with someone and his girlfriend will regard you as an enemy. If and when they break up—as so many teen romances do—you can decide THEN whether to express your feelings. But if you do, please do it in person and not anonymously.

DEAR ABBY: Is it possible to earn someone's trust back, and if so, how would I do it?

WONDERING IN OHIO

DEAR WONDERING: Much depends upon what you did that destroyed the person's trust. If it wasn't too egregious, a sincere apology is the way to begin. And if it is accepted, walking the straight and narrow in the future would be helpful.

DEAR ABBY: I got married four months ago and we have no wedding rings. However, we do have our names tattooed on each other's ring finger. His is not legible. Even though he got it touched up once, it still looks like a big blur. My tattoo is very clear and noticeable.

All my friends think we need to wear wedding bands or something. Did we do the wrong thing?

NEWLYWED IN TACOMA, WASH.

DEAR NEWLYWED: When it comes to wedding bands—and what they symbolize—there is no "wrong" thing. You and your husband got the tattoos because you wanted something that would last forever, like your union. The most important thing isn't what your friends think; it's how the two of you FEEL. If you want to wear wedding bands, then buy a couple. But don't do it because someone else thinks you should.

DEAR ABBY: I work 40-plus hours a week and have a 3-year-old and two dogs. My good friend "Kate" has a 6-year-old, 2-year-old twins and a dog.

Her house is dirty. The bathroom is dusty and stained, and in the kitchen, dishes are piled in the sink. Would it be rude to offer her a few hours to clean up some key rooms? If not, how would I go about offering without being too blunt?

HAVE MOP, WILL TRAVEL

DEAR HAVE: Try this. Say, "Kate, you have your hands full, so why don't I come over one morning this weekend and help with the housework? Then we'll grab some lunch. It'd be fun. What do you say?"

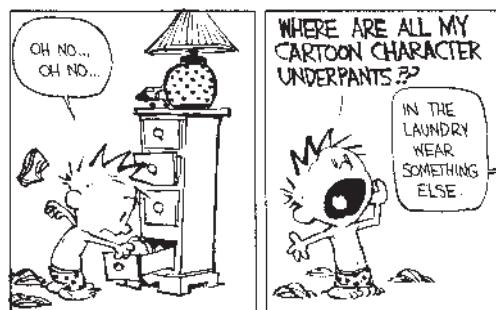
P.S. If you find yourself in the Los Angeles area, give me a call. And don't forget that mop!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two books: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

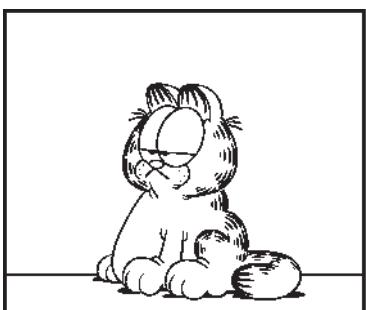
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



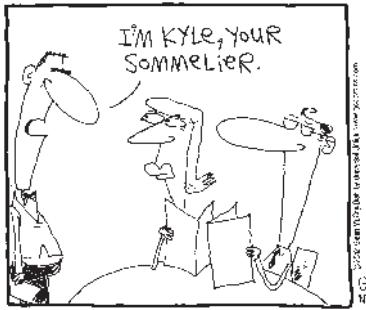
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

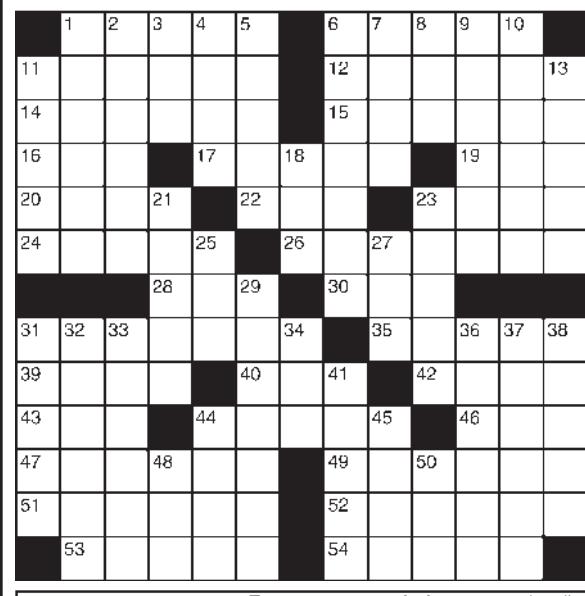


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	People of	54	Rebuffs a	13	Redacts
1	Nervous	Cardiff	masher	18	Deity	
6	Pack	pride	21	Back-	21	
11	animal	40	Fleecy	bone	23	Freshen,
12	Hold	41	Diamond	maybe	25	Type
14	together	42	shapes	measures	27	measures
15	Each	43	3 "A"	29	Stitch	
16	Glanced	44	mouse!"	Makes up		
17	Drunk	45	4 Algon-	one's	31	Do
18	Shade	46	quian	mind	32	refinery
19	provider	47	tribe		33	work
20	Urge	48	5 Small		34	Non-
21	Muham-	49	anchor		35	standard
22	mad or	50	game		36	dialect
23	Laila	51	need		37	Concert
24	Symbols	52	Appeared		38	call
25	of	53	ominous-		39	Deterio-
26	intrigue	54	ly		40	rate
27	A billion	55	Pillaged		41	Computer
28	years	56	Long,		42	style
29	Laugh-a-	57	loud		43	37
30	minute	58	speech		44	Winter
31	Attack	59	Spotted		45	forecasts
32	from	60	wildcat		46	Coin toss
33	conceal-	61	Slues		47	option
34	ment	62	Genders		48	41
35	Arid	63	yarn		49	Shrill
36	areas	64	Solution time:		50	barks
37	Third-	65	27 mins.		51	"Adam
38	party	66			52	—"
39	abbr.	67			53	Earth
40	Longing	68			54	Upper
41	"The	69			55	limit
42	Faerie	70			56	Lab
43	Queene"	71			57	eggs
44	writer	72			58	

Yesterday's answer 9-8



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Pink, 33; David Arquette, 41; Brooke Burke Charvet, 41; Neko Case, 42.

Happy Birthday: Refuse to get stuck in an uncompromising position that takes up too much time for very little return. You have to carefully pick and choose where you are going to put your time and effort. Make sure that what you get out of your hard work will bring satisfying returns. Don't let love lead you astray. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 26, 33, 41, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Embrace emotional concerns openly and you will resolve issues that have been keeping you at a standstill personally. Love and romance are in the stars. Sharing your plans for the future along with your feelings will enhance an important relationship. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Remembering goals you wanted to aspire to will give you insight into what you should consider doing now. It's never too late to start something new. Follow your heart and your dreams and you will find peace of mind. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may feel like taking over and making a big splash, but you should probably take note of what's reasonable and what's not. You are best to stick to moderation. Overindulgence in any capacity will lead to troubled relationships. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Think before you make a move or a decision that can influence your status, profession or a partnership. Stick close to home and put more ef-

fort into keeping the peace and taking care of chores and responsibilities that belong to you. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a big difference to someone you want to help if you are generous with your time and tolerant of those less fortunate. Don't let anger stand in the way when what's required is reliability and positive action. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep a watchful eye. Practicality coupled with hands-on assistance will help you maneuver your way through situations you come up against. Don't believe everything you hear. False information can be expected from someone trying to sell you something. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Speak openly regarding your plans, and you will receive valuable information that will help you reach your goals. Travel will contribute to a decision you must make that revolves around your current living situation. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Caution will be required. You are susceptible to minor mishaps and injury if you don't slow down and avoid altercations. Focus more on home, family and creative endeavors and you will feel better about your life and your future. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): One step at a time. Not everyone will support you or your plans. Expect to face opposition and to be forced to deal with emotional complaints. Making positive changes at home will be in your best interest. Love is on the rise. **★★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do not meddle, even if you feel you should. You will end up being blamed for interfering. Focus more on learning and finding ways to invest wisely in something that will help you get ahead personally or professionally. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You think big. You are emotional, impulsive and a risktaker.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do not over your personal papers so you know where you stand financially before making a commitment you may not be able to honor. Time is money, and you must organize and prepare in order to ensure you get the biggest return. Don't overspend. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Search for a way to achieve your goals. Avoid anyone trying to pressure you to do things you don't want to do. Focus on your home and improving the way you live. Make a commitment to someone special. Love and romance are highlighted. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do not meddle, even if you feel you should. You will end up being blamed for interfering. Focus more on learning and finding ways to invest wisely in something that will help you get ahead personally or professionally. **★★**

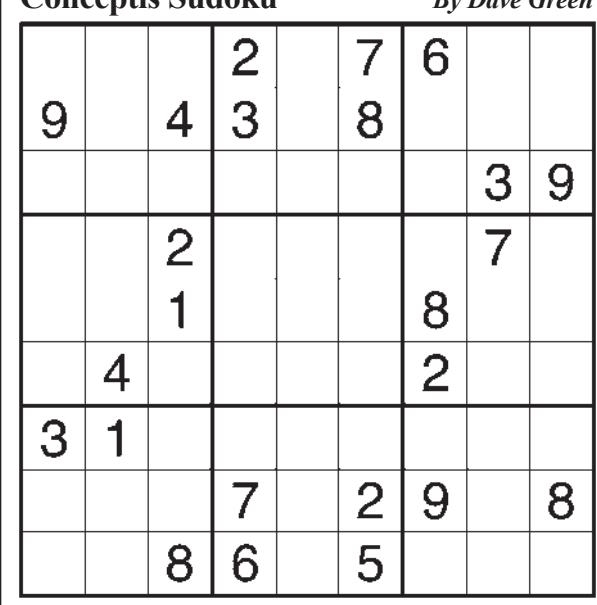
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

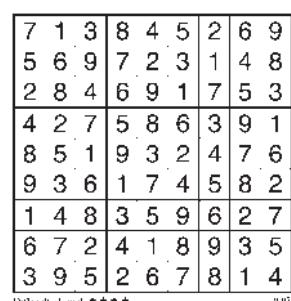
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ****

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POLICE SERGEANTS

D	T	D	T	A	F	E	D	T	D	R	T	F	E	R
I	E	N	N	I	R	N	T	A	N	R	F	P	V	O
V	E	P	E	A	U	R	O	A	U	A	B	U	R	I
I	S	L	A	M	M	R	E	O	T	Q	R	O	E	N
S	D	H	B	R	N	M	C	S	T	S	S	R	S	E
I	E	C	I	A	T	G	O	E	T	A	C	G	A	S
O	T	E	I	F	T	M	I	C	R	Y	L	E	E	W
N	E	G	V	T	T	S	E	C	A	C	P	N	T	
P	C	A	E	A	C	P	N	N	S	I	N	F	E	
A	T	N	S	R	S	A	E	O	T	A	K	O	S	
T	I	A	I	U	P	G	T	I	C	R	C	T	R	T
R	V	M	S	E	A	C	Z	T	T	E	L	E	C	I
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L	A	G	E	L	N	V	I	C	T	I	M	M	W	Y
L	I	A	I	S	O	N	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	S

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The NBA Treasury Fund is a charitable organization that receives tax-deductible contributions from NBA players and their families. The NBA Treasury Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. To learn more, visit www.nba.com/treasuryfund.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form **AND** required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 28, 2012 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than September 28, 2012, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jkaipat@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

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P.O. Box 4949 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 234-2870

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: MAVERICK RYAN LOPEZ RANOLA	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0411
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MINOR CHILD	NOTICE OF HEARING
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IGNACIO K. DESEBEL
and AURORA
DUPITAS DESEBEL
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named minor child by Ignacio and Aurora Desebel Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 4th day of October, 2012 at 10:30am or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

ACCOUNTING MANAGER: Bachelors Degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Power point, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance GeniiSys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports and auditing experience an advantage.

ACCOUNTANT: Must be a college graduate in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work related experience in insurance financial reporting and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and investment management. Proficient in SAP R3 FICO system, MS Word and Excel software. Good analytical ability and proficient knowledge in use of computers. Must be able to work under time pressure and work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to Century Insurance Company (CIC) office at the JP Center Building on Beach Road Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Thursday, September 13, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Djokovic gets past del Potro to reach semis

US OPEN NEW YORK (AP) —

Locked in a taut, thrill-a-minute second set, Novak Djokovic and Juan Martin del Potro headed to a tiebreaker and produced a 20-stroke masterpiece of a point befitting a pair of past U.S. Open champions.

More than a dozen shots in, defending champion Djokovic drew del Potro forward with a drop shot, then tossed up a lob. Del Potro, the 2009 champion, sprinted with his back to the court, got to the ball and lofted a lob the other way. Djokovic slammed an overhead. Del Potro somehow kept the ball in play. Djokovic laced a drop shot. Again, del Potro got there, attempting another lob. It landed long.

A point from a two-set lead, Djokovic threw his head back, roared "Come on!" and pumped his arms. Del Potro leaned his elbows atop the net, hunched over and rested his head on his arms.

Close and compelling as their quarterfinal was, it might as well have been over right then and there. Djokovic's down-the-line backhand winner seconds later ended the tiebreaker and gave him a commanding lead on the way to a 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-4 victory over del Potro on Thursday night that put the Serb in his 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

"We played some incredible rallies and incredible points," the second-seeded Djokovic said. "It's always entertaining, always so much fun, playing in these night sessions."

Djokovic will face fourth-seeded David Ferrer on Sat-



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, stretches for a return against Juan Martin del Potro, of Argentina, in the quarterfinal round of play at the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012, in New York.

urday, with a spot in Sunday's final at stake. Ferrer advanced to his fourth career major semi-final by using his own version of leg-churning, ball-chasing tennis to outlast eighth-seeded Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia 6-3, 6-7 (5), 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) in 4 hours, 31 minutes.

Olympic champion Andy Murray and 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych—who eliminated 17-time major champion Roger Federer—earned their semifinal berths Wednesday.

Ferrer needed a mid-match pedicure of sorts, seemed bothered when Tipsarevic got a

mid-game medical timeout and, worst of all, was down 4-1 in the fifth set.

In the end, though, the indefatigable Spaniard was barely better, as he usually is when matches go the distance. He has won four consecutive five-setters and is 17-9 overall.

"I don't have words," said Ferrer, who reached the semifinals at the French Open in June. "It was a very emotional match."

When it ended on Tipsarevic's backhand into the net, Ferrer raised his arms, then knelt near the baseline. The weary foes met at the net for a hug.

"David is a fighter. He is one of

the biggest competitors we have in the game. People ... overlook him," Djokovic said. "You need to earn your points against him."

Hmmmm. Sound familiar?

Del Potro might use those exact words to describe Djokovic.

Under the lights at night in Arthur Ashe Stadium, the showcase matchup of Djokovic's squeaky-sneaker defense, reflex returns and line-catching groundstrokes against the seventh-seeded del Potro's big-as-can-be forehands topping 100 mph lasted a little more than three hours. It was tremendously good every step of the way, and the second set alone was 84

minutes long - 11 minutes more than Djokovic's entire first-round match last week.

"Crucial," Djokovic said about Thursday's second set. "It could have gone either way."

Djokovic and del Potro, a 6-foot-6 Argentine, each was left smacking himself in the head with a racket after an ugly mistake—the shot-making was so high-caliber that any miscue really stood out. The full house responded more than once with standing ovations, but the loudest and longest came before the tiebreaker.

These are the only two men who have managed to beat

Modell dies at 87; legacy depends on perspective

BALTIMORE (AP) — Art Modell's fingerprints can still be found all over the NFL.

In Baltimore. In Cleveland. On Monday night football. On past labor agreements.

Along with colleagues named Rozelle, Halas, Brown and Rooney—all pillars of a fledgling league—Modell helped transform the NFL into America's pre-eminent sport.

The former Ravens owner died early Thursday, leaving behind a legacy that was unblemished save for one decision that hounded him the rest of his life: moving his team from Cleveland to Baltimore.

David Modell said he and his brother, John, were at their father's side when he "died peacefully of natural causes." He was 87.

"The game of football lost one of its all-time greats," Detroit Lions owner William Clay Ford Sr. said. "Art's contributions to the NFL during his five decades in the game are immeasurable. I believe that Art did as much as any owner to help make the NFL what it is today. Art was a

pioneer, a visionary and a selfless owner who always saw the big picture and did the right thing.

"Our game would not be what it is today if it weren't for Art Modell."

Modell spent 43 years as an NFL owner, overseeing the Browns from 1961 until he moved the team to Baltimore in 1996. He served as league president from 1967-69, helped finalize the first collective bargaining agreement with the players in 1968 and was the point man for the NFL's lucrative contracts with television networks.

Long before his Ravens won the Vince Lombardi Trophy in 2001, Modell teamed with Lombardi, Commissioner Pete Rozelle and others to lay the foundation for the league's success.

"Art Modell was a most influential member of commissioner Rozelle's 'Kitchen Cabinet' for many years, along with Dan Rooney and the late Tex Schramm," said Joe Browne, the longest-tenured player in the league's front office. "Ironically, Art is the only member of that group who is not enshrined

in Canton. Hopefully, the Hall of Fame media selectors will rectify that oversight in the near future—not as an emotional reaction to Art's death, but as a rightful reflection of his long-time contributions to the NFL."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell praised Modell's work within the league as it was gaining momentum a half century ago.

"Art Modell's leadership was an important part of the NFL's success during the league's explosive growth during the 1960s and beyond," Goodell said in a statement. "Art was a visionary who understood the critical role that mass viewing of NFL games on broadcast television could play in growing the NFL."

But Modell's reputation took a hit from which it could not recover when he pulled the Browns out of Cleveland following a round of secret negotiations with Baltimore city officials. The move was made not because of poor attendance in Cleveland, but because Baltimore provided him with a better business opportunity.

Miller, Nelson among hoops Hall inductees



S P R I N G - FIELD, Mass. (AP) — S he

was the first person he called after he got the call. And Cheryl Miller will be on stage to present her brother, Reggie, when he is inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

It's an honor that can only go to a previous inductee.

Reggie Miller will be honored on Friday night along with longtime coach Don Nelson, Nike co-founder Phil Knight and nine others in the biggest induction class in more than 50 years. The former Indiana Pacers star joins big sister Cheryl, a 1995 inductee who is 20 months his elder, to form the first brother-sister pair in the Springfield shrine.

"If you were going to tell me you would have two Hall of Famers from the same family, I probably would have looked at you like you were crazy," Reggie Miller said Thursday after a ceremony in which the

inductees were presented with their Hall of Fame blazers.

"Without Cheryl's hard work and dedication to the game of basketball, I don't know if I would ever be on this stage. She's the reason why I'm here."

A five-time All-Star and 1996 Olympic gold medalist, Reggie Miller retired as the leading 3-point shooter in NBA history and one of the most clutch players in the history of the league. Beloved in Indiana, where he spent his entire 18-year career, he is remembered in New York with equal parts respect and revulsion for scoring eight points in 8.9 seconds to beat the Knicks in a 1995 playoff game.

His competitiveness was developed in childhood games with Cheryl and their three other siblings—not just basketball in the driveway, but also Monopoly or Uno or Risk or dominoes (Darrell Miller made the major leagues as a catcher, and sister Tammy was a high school track star who played volleyball in college).

Federer and Rafael Nadal, owner of 11 major trophies, in the course of a single Grand Slam tournament. Djokovic and del Potro each did it while on the way to the championship at Flushing Meadows.

In the three years since del Potro's triumph, though, he hasn't reached another major final. He was sidelined for most of the 2010 season—and missed out on a chance to defend his U.S. Open title—because of a right wrist injury that required surgery. He's had problems with his left wrist recently, limiting the effectiveness of his two-fisted backhand.

Still, he beat Djokovic for the bronze medal at the London Olympics last month and gave the guy all he could handle throughout the second set.

"I didn't expect to win easy, that's for sure," Djokovic said.

In what would turn out to be the match's final game, del Potro—who ended Andy Roddick's career by beating him Wednesday—at least got a chance to briefly celebrate on what has become Djokovic's territory, smacking a brilliant backhand winner and hopping on a courtside advertising wall while raising his arms overhead.

Fans leaped out of their seats. Even Djokovic had to acknowledge the shot, using his racket to applaud.

But otherwise, this was Djokovic's night to shine. He is into the U.S. Open semifinals for the sixth year in a row, and the streak of 10 he has at all major tournaments—dating to Wimbledon in 2010—ties Rod Laver and Ivan Lendl for the second-longest, behind Federer's record of 23.

"No one messed with the Millers," Reggie said. "And we always had each other's back. I guess that's what family is all about."

Also on stage receiving their Hall of Fame jackets on Thursday were Don Nelson, the winningest coach in NBA history, and Nike co-founder Phil Knight. Ralph Sampson, the only three-time college player of the year, and Jamaal Wilkes, who won two NCAA titles at and four in the NBA, are also among the honorees.

Also to be inducted are seven-time NBA All-Star Chet Walker; the All American Redheads, known as the female Harlem Globetrotters; two-time Olympic gold medalist Katrina McClain; former Soviet women's coach Lidia Alexeeva, who was undefeated in 17 years of international play; the late Don Barksdale, the first black player on the U.S. Olympic team and in the NBA All-Star game; two-time NBA MVP Mel Daniels, and longtime NCAA referee Hank Nichols.

Nationals sweep Cubs in fight-filled game



WASHINGTON
(AP)—Nationals manager Davey Johnson figures the Chicago Cubs were ticked off because Jayson Werth swung at a 3-0 pitch in the fifth inning.

Just to be clear, Johnson wasn't apologizing.

Adam LaRoche added to his home run tear with a two-run shot and Washington beat the Cubs 9-2 in a fight-filled game Thursday night to finish a lopsided four-game sweep.

"If they get mad at my guys in the fifth inning swinging 3-0 or running, they better get used to it," Johnson said.

The trouble started with a testy exchange between Cubs bench coach Jamie Quirk and Nationals third base coach Bo Porter in the fifth. Quirk shouted from the dugout toward third base and Porter walked over to the railing, jawing and pointing his finger.

The benches and bullpens emptied, but there was no pushing or shoving. Quirk was ejected before play resumed.

"It was the bench coach's frustration in us handing it to him for a couple days," Johnson said. "If they want to quit competing and forfeit, then fine. But we're going to keep competing."

In the sixth, Chicago reliever Lend Castillo threw his first pitch of the inning near Bryce Harper's legs and the ball that sailed all the way to the backstop.

"Castillo's a Rule 5 kid who's thrown a lot of them pitches today," Chicago manager Dale Sveum said. "There was no intention to hit Bryce Harper or anything because of what happened."

Braves 1, Rockies 0

In Atlanta, a routine part of the game, something every pitcher from Little League to the big leagues does without even thinking.

Throw the pitch, catch the ball when it's tossed back.

Jhoulys Chacin messed up that simple task, handing the Atlanta Braves another unlikely win.

Led by seven scoreless innings from Tim Hudson, the NL wild-card leaders posted their second straight 1-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies, winning both times with an unearned run. It was the first time in more than 28 years that a team triumphed that way in back-to-back games.

"It's one of those crazy things, but baseball is a crazy game. A lot of weird things can happen," Braves second baseman Dan Uggla said. "As long as you've got more runs at the end of the



AP

Umpires try to restore order during the sixth inning when both benches and bullpens emptied onto the field of a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the Chicago Cubs at Nationals Park, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012, in Washington. The Nationals won, 9-2.

game, that's all that matters."

Marlins 6, Brewers 2

In Miami, Josh Johnson is looking to finish strong after a tough start to the season.

Johnson pitched seven solid innings and ended his career-worst four-game losing skid, leading the Miami Marlins past the Milwaukee Brewers, 6-2.

"I settled in, used my curveball and located my fastball," Johnson said. "I made pitches when I needed to. That's the name of the game."

Johnson (8-11) allowed two runs and four hits while striking out seven while lowering his ERA to 3.86. He won for the first time since Aug. 3 at Washington. He has a 3.22 ERA in his last 17 starts compared to a 4.83 ERA in his first 11 starts.

"He started the season very rough because he hadn't pitched in a while," Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen said. "After that he got the momentum going. You look up and he's had a great year if you look at it that way, compared to last year."

Orioles 10, Yankees 6

In Baltimore, Adam Jones had heard tales about how Camden Yards used to be when the place was packed and the

Trout vs Cabrera in AL MVP

NEW YORK (AP)—Glowing stories written about dynamic Los Angeles Angels rookie Mike Trout this summer often referred to his potential to become one of the youngest batting champions—and MVPs—in baseball history as almost a fait accompli.

That has decidedly changed as baseball enters its final month.

Detroit Tigers third baseman Miguel Cabrera has caught Trout for the AL lead in batting average (.330134 to .329764 through Thursday) and is gathering support as the AL MVP by hitting .360 since the start of August. Trout, on the other hand, has been more human than the "SuperNatural" billing he received on a recent Sports Illustrated cover.

"The bar was set so high that we're talking about a month where he hit .290 as a lull," Angels general manager Jerry Dipoto said of Trout's August, in which he batted .284 -- by far his lowest mark for a full month in the big leagues. "If his accomplishments to date have created a standard where simply being really good can be considered a lull, we're going to be OK."

The lull has extended into September. With a hitless game in Oakland on Wednesday, Trout has batted just .275 (38-for-138) in his past 33 games. His season average is the lowest it has been since June 18.

"Mike is incredibly energetic. He brings such a high level of energy to the game every day," Dipoto said, "but he has entered that zone where this is going to be the longest season where he has had to play pole-to-pole."

"They call these the dog days for a reason."

Orioles were in a pennant race.

With one dramatic swing of the bat, Jones found out for himself just how crazy the place can get.

Jones hit the first of Baltimore's three home runs in a wild eighth in-

ning, and the Orioles climbed back into a first-place tie with the Yankees in the AL East by defeating New York, 10-6, before a euphoric sellout crowd.

Mark Reynolds had two of Baltimore's season-high six home runs.

week—so fierce on Wednesday that the course was briefly evacuated—players were able to lift, clean and place their golf balls in the short grass before firing at the flags. Really, there was no other option in such soft conditions.

Sixty players in the 70-man field were at par or better. Forty players were in the 60s. All but five holes played under par, and the average score was 69.47.

"I think we all knew it was there for the taking today," said Justin Rose, who opened with a 67 and was tied for 10th.

Vijay Singh had a chance to join the leaders until he drove into the water on the 18th hole, though he escaped with par and was at 65. Luke Donald was in the group at 66. Phil Mickelson was at 69, worth noting because it looked as

Matt Wieters and Robert Andino also connected for the Orioles, who have won 10 of 13 - a run that includes three of four over New York.

Jones' leadoff homer in the eighth off David Robertson (1-6) put Baltimore ahead 7-6 after the Yankees rallied from a five-run deficit in the top half.

Rangers 5, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Michael Young's is able to handle his lower-than-usual stats this season because the numbers he cares most about are wins.

Ian Kinsler hit a leadoff triple in the 10th inning and scored on Young's single to lift the Texas Rangers over the Kansas City Royals, 5-4. Josh Hamilton and Adrian Beltre hit back-to-back homers in the fourth to help the AL West leaders overcome a 3-0 deficit.

"Knocking in runs leads to wins," said Young, a seven-time All-Star who is hitting .269, 35 points below his career average entering this season. "That's the only stat I care about is racking up wins. I don't care about the numbers that are in the past. Those games are done. They're as much in the past as numbers I put up 10 years ago, they're in the past. I'm always focused on the next game and the next opportunity."

McIlroy in tie for lead; Woods 1 behind

BMW
PGA Championship



CARMEL, Ind. (AP)—Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy seem to be spending a lot of time together lately. That includes the top of a busy leaderboard at the BMW Championship.

The biggest star in golf and his heir apparent put on a dazzling show Thursday at Crooked Stick, where the gallery caught a glimpse of the best players in the world for the first time since the 1991 PGA Championship.

McIlroy, flawless with his irons, birdied his last two holes for an 8-under 64 and was part of a four-way tie for the lead with Indiana native Bo Van Pelt, U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson and Graham DeLaet, the Canadian who is quietly becoming the Cinderella of these FedEx Cup playoffs.

Just three days after McIlroy won the Deutsche Bank Championship, he looked just as impressive in the opening round at Crooked Stick.

"He hits it great, puts it great and top of that, he's just a really nice kid," Woods said in some of his strongest praise ever for another player. "The game of golf is in great hands with him, and he's here to stay."

Woods, who finished two shots behind Monday in Boston, isn't going away quietly. He was only sharp when it came to scoring, making enough birdies to stay in the game, including a 30-foot chip-in on his last hole for a 65.

McIlroy had every reason to be a little flat because of the short turnaround from the Labor Day finish. But that wasn't the case at the BMW Championship, not with fans lined three-deep down the entire 10th hole to see him and Woods in the same group for the second time in three weeks.

"It definitely gives you a little more of a lift, especially coming off a win and maybe being a little flat," McIlroy said. "You're focused from the get-go, and you want to go out and shoot a good number, and I was able to do that today."

They made it look easy, and Crooked Stick was every bit of that on a broiling afternoon north of Indianapolis.

Because of heavy rains earlier in the

though he might quadruple bogey on his last hole. Instead, he made birdie.

His second shot from the fairway on the par-5 ninth sailed toward the corporate tents, and Mickelson feared it was out-of-bounds. He hit a provisional that went onto the driving range, which definitely was out-of-bounds. Before he could hit again, Mickelson discovered the first one was in play. Mickelson had a clear enough shot at the green, and he hasn't lost his magic with the short game—his wedge settled 2 feet away for a birdie.

"I got lucky," Mickelson said.

Mickelson played in the group in front of Woods and McIlroy, a dream for any gallery. Even so, cheers could be heard from all ends of Crooked Stick, a testament to how many people were on the course for a Thursday afternoon.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	77	60	.562	—
New York	77	60	.562	—
Tampa Bay	75	62	.547	2
Boston	63	75	.457	14 1/2
Toronto	61	75	.449	15 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	74	62	.544	—
Detroit	73	63	.537	1
Kansas City	61	76	.445	13 1/2
Cleveland	58	79	.423	16 1/2
Minnesota	56	81	.409	18 1/2

West Division

Texas	82	55	.599	—
Oakland	76	60	.559	5 1/2
Los Angeles	74	63	.540	8
Seattle	67	71	.486	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

Washington	84	52	.618	—
Atlanta	77	60	.562	7 1/2
Philadelphia	66	71	.482	18 1/2
New York	65	72	.474	19 1/2
Miami	60	77	.438	24 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	83	55	.601	—
St. Louis	74	63	.540	8 1/2
Pittsburgh	72	64	.529	10
Milwaukee	67	69	.493	15
Chicago	51	85	.375	31
Houston	42	95	.307	40 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	77	60	.562	—
Los Angeles	73	65	.529	4 1/2
Arizona	68	70	.493	9 1/2
San Diego	64	74	.464	13 1/2
Colorado	56	79	.415	20

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES**FIRST ROUND**

Webb Simpson	64
Bo Van Pelt	64
Rory McIlroy	64
Graham DeLaet	64
Vijay Singh	65
Tiger Woods	65
Ryan Moore	66
Luke Donald	66
Ryan Palmer	66
Robert Garrigus	67
Rickie Fowler	67
Justin Rose	67
Ben Crane	67
Jimmy Walker	67
Zach Johnson	67
Graeme McDowell	68
Seung-yul Noh	68
Lee Westwood	68
Dustin Johnson	68
Louis Oosthuizen	68
Steve Stricker	68
Geoff Ogilvy	68
Ian Poulter	68
Adam Scott	68
Kyle Stanley	68
Matt Every	68
Chris Kirk	68
Tom Gillis	69
Bud Cauley	69
Kevin Stadler	69
Bubba Watson	69
Brandt Snedeker	69
Martin Laird	69
Charl Schwartzel	69
Jim Furyk	69
Phil Mickelson	69
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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMIVA to hold referee refresher course Tuesday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association is hosting an indoor referee refresher course this Tuesday from 4:30pm to 8:30pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The course is scheduled to help the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization (MISO) and the Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association (COPSSA), which are both in need of referees for the upcoming junior and high school level competitions this fall semester. The leagues will pay a nominal fee to those who hold a NMIVA referee certificate.

The course serves as a "refresher" for those who have already received their NMIVA referee certificates and will also act as a course for those seeking to obtain a national certification for volleyball officiating.

All coaches participating in the MISO volleyball program must at-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Marianas Baptist Academy player taps the ball near the net during their game against Saipan International School in last year's COPSSA league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

tend Tuesday's course as part of enhancing themselves and the program.

Additional payment through MISO and the Public School System can coming around off an infield error that boarded Ton Manibusan. Manibusan also made it home off another error, however Sakisat got the Yankees out of the jam with runners on the corners.

Then after a quiet eighth, Brewers' Clifton Silil singled home Guerrero at the top of the ninth to tie the game, 3-all. Silil lifted a shallow fly to left field that was almost snagged by Yankees' centerfielder Jones Jr., who came diving in on the play.

Jones Jr. then came to the plate and led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a

clutch single and moved into scoring position off an ill-timed error. Frank Robert stepped in and out later and drilled a walk-off line drive to keep the Yankees championship dreams alive.

Winning pitcher Sakisat went all

nine innings and gave up zero earned runs off 11 hits and a walk, while Delos Santos batted 3-for-4 with one RBI and one run for the Yankees. Sablan led the Brewers, as he swung 3-for-4 with one RBI. Mike Pangilinan was 3-for-3 with a base on balls and Guerrero batted 3-for-4 with a run.

YANKEES

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With their season on the line going into last Thursday's match, the Yankees were put in a must-win situation and showed early signs of extending the series when they led at 3-0. The Brewers managed to tie the game going into the final inning, but Ben Jones Jr. and Frank Robert teamed up in the winning run in the ninth to force the winner-take-all Game 5.

After a scoreless first inning, Chris

Metatoa scrambled for a dozen in the loss.

The Shottas brushed themselves off the next day for Game 2 and worked out an early 25-19 edge at halftime, thanks largely to an improved defensive approach and a pair of three-pointers from Ray Babauta late in the period.

The Shottas did a good job keeping a lid on R-Rebels' scoring duo, Ogunmoro and Norita, in Game 2, holding the pair to just a dozen in the first frame.

In the Top 4 players after the round-robin play will advance to the playoffs. Marylyn Montano is still in the thick of the fight for one of the four playoff berths, as she also holds a spotless mark (2-0), going into this weekend's games. Montano won over Cristy Villaflor and Savellano (0-2) to take the second place in the women's Class B.

In the men's singles, Ferdie Arago and Andreau Galvez both won their opening game in Class A, thumping Sam Jones and Dick Guintu, respectively. Macoi Aguda completes the Class A field and will only be playing his first game this weekend.

While Class A is just warming up, Class B was halfway done with its elimination games. Chris Hilario played two of his four matches and won both to lead Class B, while Wowie Abuel and Jexler Caranto are in second place with their similar 2-1 marks.

Hilario won over Oh and Revilla, while Abuel also got a victory from Oh

The Shottas stuck to its defensive plan, while power forward Eugene Manglona heated up on offense in the second half. He dropped 11 markers in the payoff period, matching Ogunmoro and Norita's combine effort, while Metatoa chipped in 6.

Manglona finished with a game-high 15 points, while R-Rebels' Ogunmoro managed a dozen on the short end.

First Game

R-Rebels 61 – Norita 16, Ogunmoro

and logged his second against Cordero. Caranto handed Abuel's lone loss and also prevailed against Revilla.

In Class C, which is divided into two groups, Ramil Belialba enjoys the top view in Pool A with his 2-0 card. Belialba defeated Joel Ortega and Panapa Peteru. Pool B matches will only be played starting this weekend.

Meanwhile, in the men's doubles C, Jordan Pangilinan and Celso Agui are likely to march into the playoffs after sweeping their first three games. The battle for the three other playoff berths will be down-to-the-wire, as the four remaining teams are neck-and-neck in the standings. Joel Ortega and Bong Gamab hold a 1-0 mark, Rommel Bartolome and Belialba have a 1-2 slate, Pao Shung Wun and Kim Young Suk hold a 1-3 card, and Melvin Capalad and Bernard Aquino own a 1-1 record.

In Class B, the pairs of Abuel and Revilla and Oh and Raj Jayalal are undefeated in two games in Pool B, while Caranto and Ortega are also perfect after two matches in Pool A.

In Class A, the duo of Galvez and Hapi Gabriel and Sam Jones and Glenn Blutjens won their first

match, while Arago and Aguda holds a 2-1 record. Abuel and Joseph Santos went 0-2 in the first two weekends of the tournament, while Noli Santos and Edwin Montoya will only see action this weekend.

Games in the women's Class A doubles will also start this weekend with only three teams competing for the title, while Class B has five pairs with Villaflor and Curate leading the group with their 2-0 mark. Class C drew four squads and Lee and Janell Pangilinan are ahead with their 2-0 slate.

EMON

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Nationals sweep Cubs 20 in fight-filled game
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Djokovic gets past del Potro to reach semis
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yankees stay alive, tie series

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees kept their championship hopes alive after holding off the Tan Holdings Brewers, 4-3, in Game 4 of their title series in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

With the series tied at 2-2, the Yankees and Brewers will go for all the marbles in the deciding Game 5 on Monday 6:30pm. The Yankees won Game 1 of the series, but the pennant champions Brewers swept the next two games to move one win away from clinching the championship.



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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Yankees' Ben Jones Jr. rears back for a swing in this recent file photo taken in Game 1 of their SML title series against the Brewers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Mobil's Jack Lizama reaches in for the loose ball during their title game against Armatech in the 2010 edition of the Emon Lodge caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Emon Lodge caging kicks off tomorrow

The Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League will open shop tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The opening ceremony starts at 1pm with all nine teams required to be present for the traditional parade of squads and for draws that will determine the pairings in the opener. League organizers are planning to hold four games this Sunday and will strictly imple-

ment a "no pay, no play rule."

Teams that fail to make partial payments at the opening day must turn over their full entrance fee (\$400) on their second game.

Joining this year's Emon Lodge caging are the Sonics, Archers, Servitek Auto Paint Shop, Fong's Bakery, Armatech, Hoopaholics, Mobil, Ashleys, and Pacific Islands Club.

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Shottas duels R-Rebels in rubber match for U25 crown

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Shottas and the R-Rebels face off tonight in the deciding Game 3 of their championship series in the U25 division of Docomo Pacific's 3rd Summer Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The 5:30m rubber match is anybody's game after the rival squads traded lopsided wins in their first two meetings in the best-of-three final series.

The R-Rebels routed the Shottas in Game 1, 61-40, last Saturday in Garapan. Then the Shottas roared back the next day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, winning Game 2, 51-37.

The R-Rebels came to play in the series opener and catapulted ahead at the break, 31-13, off the coattails of shooting guard Trevor Ogomoro.

Ogomoro's 12 points almost matched the Shottas' total production. He also received nine markers from Ben Lisua to give R-Rebels the big cushion.

The Shottas was clearly out of sync out of the gate with only

See SHOTTAS on Page 23



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Shottas' Eugene Manglona, left, makes a strong move to the basket against the R-Rebels' Ben Lisua during Game 2 of their title series in the Docomo U25 caging last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Toshiko Obata makes a tough return while teammate Windy Fernandez looks on during their women's doubles Class B game against Gigi Zapanta and Loida Ito in the Shirley's badminton tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

7 unbeaten in singles play of Shirley's tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven players are still undefeated after Week 2 of the 2012 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament.

Women's Class B's Toshiko Obata is among the per-

fect players, as she swept her first three matches at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. The Japanese recorded victories against Windy Fernandez, Loida Ito, and Jen Savelano to lead the seven-player field and boost her chances for the playoffs. Only See SHIRLEY'S on Page 23

